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Christopher to visit Mideast next week
WASHINGTON (AFP) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will visit Israel and other countries in the Middle East next week, a State Department official said Monday. Mr. Christopher's itinerary will include at least Israel, Egypt and Jordan, said the official who spoke on condition of anonymity. It will be the first personal contact by a member of President Bill Clinton's administration and the team of new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. After the Middle East secretary of state will travel to Lyon, France, to participate in the annual summit of the Group of Seven nations (Britain, Canada, France, Italy, Japan and the United States).



Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي

League financial problems unresolved
CAIRO (AP) — Arab diplomats failed Monday to resolve a financial crisis that threatens to undermine the Arab League at a time of calls for unity against Israel's new right-wing government. Permanent representatives of the league's 22 members met for four hours but could not agree on ways to reduce the \$80 million in membership arrears and accumulated debt. They instead directed the secretariat to develop more proposals for discussion. The inability to deal with the problem — which has forced the Arab League to freeze salaries, pay some workers late and consider closing offices — bodes poorly for efforts to increase cooperation in the Arab World.

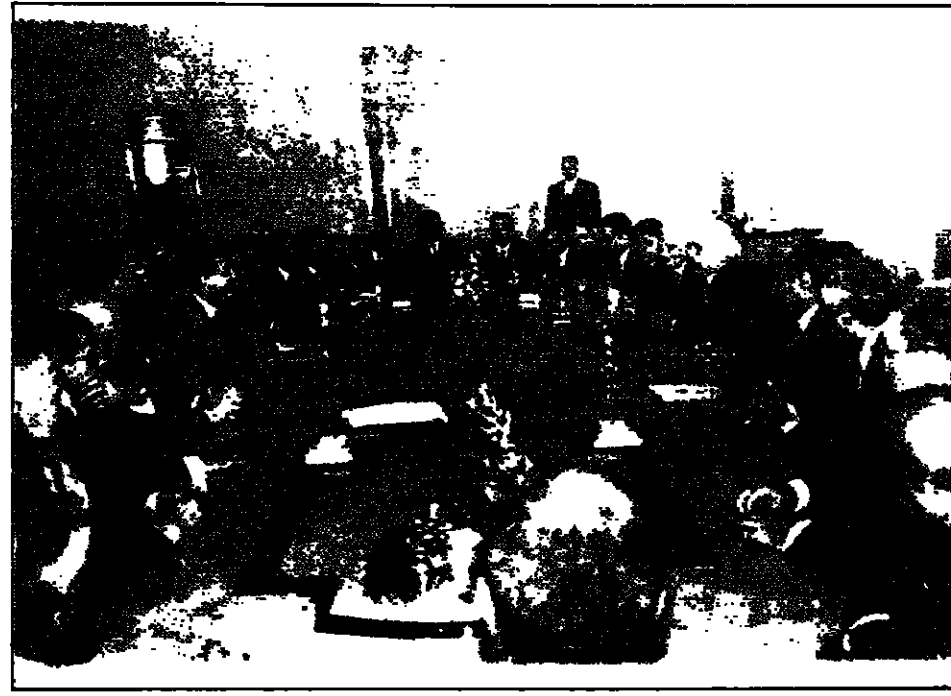
Arafat arrives in Beijing
BEIJING (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat arrived in Beijing Monday for a three-day official visit to China. Mr. Arafat, on his tenth visit to China and first since September 1993, is scheduled to meet President Jiang Zemin Tuesday. They are likely to discuss the fate of the Middle East peace process following the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as Israel's prime minister. China, which has long backed the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), forged diplomatic ties with Israel in January 1992. During a brief stopover in Dhaka earlier Monday, Mr. Arafat said the election of Mr. Netanyahu would not derail the peace process.

King returns, describes result of U.S. visit as highly positive

HM chairs Cabinet meeting at airport on Washington talks, summit preparations

Kabariti leaves today for UAE, Bahrain

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter



His Majesty King Hussein chairs a Cabinet meeting at the airport on Monday immediately after his return home (Petra photo)

AMMAN — His Majesty King Hussein returned home Monday evening and immediately briefed the Council of Ministers on the outcome of his talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton and discussed preparations for next week's Arab summit in Cairo.

The King, who returned home with Her Majesty Queen Noor, chaired a Cabinet session at the airport, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said.

He quoted the King as telling the Cabinet that the outcome of his visits to the United Kingdom and the United States was very positive and fruitful and that he felt that Jordan's stand was deeply appreciated, especially vis-a-vis its efforts for peace and its commitment to democracy and human rights.

He also said the U.S. administration had reaffirmed Washington's commitment to and support for the Middle East peace process.

King Hussein briefed the ministers on Jordan's stand with regard to the June 21-23 Arab summit in Cairo, and stressed that the Kingdom had always been for any "Arab meeting designed to unite Arab stands to safeguard the Arab Nation's rights and secure the nation's future generations."

He said that Jordan's participation in the Cairo summit was an embodiment of the Kingdom's "principled

stands since such meeting will open the way for the Arab leaders to hold frank discussions, end their differences, enhance Arab solidarity and protect their interests."

Apart from the Cabinet ministers, the meeting was attended by the speakers of Parliament and Royal Court Chief Awn Khasawneh.

Informed sources said meanwhile that Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti was scheduled to leave for the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain today for consultations with their leaders ahead of the Arab summit.

Mr. Kabariti, who returned home Sunday night after a visit to the

U.S., where he attended King Hussein's talks with President Clinton, is expected to return home before leaving for Cairo Thursday evening to attend a foreign ministers' meeting ahead of the summit, said the sources.

Mr. Kabariti, who assumed office in February, also holds the foreign affairs portfolio.

He is expected to carry messages from the King to the leaders of the UAE and Bahrain dealing with pan-Arab issues and the Arab summit to be held in Cairo, the first in six years.

The summit was called by the leaders of Syria, Egypt and Saudi Arabia following

the victory of right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu in May 29 polls on a "no-concessions to the Arabs" platform, ousting incumbent Shimon Peres, the architect of the Middle East peace process.

The King's talks in Washington dealt with the issue, and both the Monarch and President Clinton said the premier-elect should be given a chance to prove his intentions rather than being judged on statements he made during the election campaign.

The London-based Al Hayat daily quoted informed sources as saying

(Continued on page 7)

Jordan and Canada say Cairo summit should not produce camps for and against peace

Crown Prince, visiting Ottawa, holds talks with Canadian premier and addresses conferences

From Ayman Al Safadi in Ottawa

JORDAN AND Canada stressed Monday that next week's Arab summit in Cairo should not adopt any decisions that would push Israel into a siege mentality that could negatively affect the Middle East peace process.

During a meeting between His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien in the Canadian capital, the two sides also warned that the summit should not result in the creation of pro-peace and anti-peace regional axes, a Royal Court source accompanying Prince Hassan on his three-day official visit to Canada said.

The source said that Prince Hassan and the Canadian prime minister discussed the progress of the peace process in general and bilateral relations as well as the refugee problem.

Prince Hassan stressed the need for articulating a comprehensive security structure that will incorporate the human and economic dimensions of the refugee problem. Canada chairs the committee on refugees in the multilateral phase of the peace negotiations.

Prince Hassan, who reiterated Jordan's commitment to comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace, said in a later meeting with the Canadian parliament's standing committee on foreign relations and international trade that the concern which some parties to the peace process expressed after the return of a Likud government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu to power in Israel was "not entirely justified."

The Crown Prince said that significant change has occurred since Jordan and Israel signed their peace treaty in 1994, and that "we would like to feel that we and Israel are moving towards peace building."

Prince Hassan expressed hope that the Group of 7 will approach the problems of the Middle East in a comprehensive manner that will address the economic, social and human problems facing the region.

He said such a comprehensive approach should be applied in dealing with the refugee problem, which Jordan has dealt with through "integration and not assimilation."

The Crown Prince, who reiterated support for the Palestinians, said in response to a question by a member of the committee that a Palestinian state can only emerge on Palestinian land.

The Crown Prince earlier stressed that the problem of refugees was multi-dimensional and efforts to address the human and economic aspects of it must not await a political solution to the issue without prejudice to

(Continued on page 7)

Netanyahu clinches Knesset majority, finalises cabinet

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu clinched a majority in Israel's parliament on Monday, building a coalition of right-wing and religious parties to carry out his hardline "peace with security" programme.

But the agreement came too late for Mr. Netanyahu, 46, to present his new government at Monday's inaugural session of the Knesset or parliament elected on May 29.

Officials said the right-wing leader was also still engaged in negotiations on

final cabinet appointments, notably concerning senior Likud members, and that the presentation of his government would not take place until Tuesday.

In the May 29 polls, Mr. Netanyahu won a narrow upset victory over Labour incumbent Shimon Peres in Israel's first direct election for prime minister, but his Likud Party won only 32 seats in the 120-member Knesset, compared to 34 for Labour.

The results set off 19 days of intense political horse-trading and Mr. Netanyahu only ensured his majority Monday when a new move-

ment representing Russian-speaking immigrants and an ultra-orthodox Jewish party agreed to join the coalition.

"We're in," Watan Sharransky, a former Soviet Jewish dissident, told reporters as he entered Parliament.

Israel Television said Likud had also sealed a pact with a fifth coalition partner, United Torah Judaism, raising its majority to 66-54.

The appointment of former defence minister Ariel Sharon as housing minister was the only one to be confirmed before the session.

(Continued on page 7)

Likud policy statement closes 'circle of peace' — Palestinians

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian leaders reacted angrily Monday to headline policy guidelines for the new Israeli government of Benjamin Netanyahu, saying calls for expanding Jewish settlements and barring a Palestinian state will move both sides towards renewed confrontation.

"This programme closes the circle of peace and completely returns us to ideological conflict," said Hassan Asfour, director-general of the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) negotiations department.

"It means a widening of the political and popular confrontation," he said.

He was referring to policy guidelines submitted by Mr. Netanyahu in advance of the presentation of his new government to the Knesset, Israel's parliament. The guidelines appear to have strengthened Palestinian fears that the Netanyahu government will move away from the Israeli government's commitment to expansion of Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank.

They speak of "the eternal and indisputable right" of the Jewish people to "Eretz Yisrael" which include the West Bank area.

The guidelines make no mention of the 1993 Oslo agreement that launched Palestinian self-rule or of U.N. resolutions calling for a trade of land for peace, and said Israel would oppose the idea that Palestinian refugees have a "right of return" to the West Bank. "We know we will face big obstacles with this government if they continue this way," said Dalal

(Continued on page 7)

Turks play down tension with Syria

ANKARA (Agencies) — Turkey underplayed Monday tensions with Syria despite the two countries moving troops in the area of their common border, and denied it had plans for an incursion into its southern neighbour.

Foreign ministry spokesman Nurettin Nurkan ruled out a Turkish military operation inside Syria against rebel Turkish Kurds whom Ankara says are receiving support from Damascus.

"There are no plans for an incursion (into Syria)," Mr. Nurkan said. "Turkey constitutes no threat to its neighbours."

Syria meanwhile stayed silent on reports that it and Turkey were massing troops

along their common border.

There was no reaction to the reported troop movements from either Syrian officials or the media, although remarks from former Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Muffak Al Alaf criticising an Israeli-Turkish military accord were highlighted in the press.

However, other comments from Mr. Alaf, who is deputy secretary general of the Arab League, about the organisation's "concern" over the situation were ignored.

A Turkish army official on Monday confirmed recent movements of Syrian troops along the 800-kilometre border but said they were not aimed at Turkey.

Yeltsin, Zyuganov face runoff, woo Lebed

MOSCOW (AP) — Facing a crucial runoff election, Boris Yeltsin and his communist opponent Monday fought for the support of a tough, former general whose backing could decide who will be the next president of Russia.

Mr. Yeltsin met in the Kremlin with Alexander Lebed, who finished a strong third in Sunday's first round, to discuss joining forces in the runoff. Communist leader Gennady Zyuganov planned to offer Mr. Lebed the top job in a future government, hinting the ex-general would suffer if he did not accept.

A visibly satisfied Lebed told Russian television his strong performance was a personal victory and that he

would disclose soon whether Mr. Yeltsin could count on his support. Some Yeltsin aides suggested Mr. Lebed could be the president's eventual successor.

Mr. Lebed voiced a desire for a government job that would "enable me to organise the struggle with crime, to prevent extreme forces — right or left, no difference — from plunging the country into the depths of bloody chaos." "I was born a winner. Sooner or later, victory will be mine," Mr. Lebed told a late-night television interviewer. "A year ago, I was just an army commander, even if I was well-known. Now I hold down third place in the presidential race."

(Continued on page 7)

Bread prices could be raised but with protection for low-income groups

By Francesca Ciriadi Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Supply Munir Sobar confirmed that a committee, specially appointed by the Cabinet, is discussing the lifting of government's subsidy on bread.

If the committee will decide to implement the new policy, bread prices, currently set at 85 fils per kilogramme, "are expected to increase by 200 per cent," Mr. Sobar told the Jordan Times.

According to the Ministry of Supply, the committee in charge of studying the lifting of subsidies on bread has been at work for the past two weeks and will issue a recommendation to the Cabinet "in the next two months."

In any case, the government promised that the lifting will not affect the poorest fragments of Jordanian society.

"There is not any decision, yet," the minister told the Jordan Times, "but we are going to

make sure that subsidies for the poor will be maintained."

The government explained the new measures with the fact that the last shipment of wheat was purchased at a price of \$245 per tonne, with an increase of 175 per cent compared to the prices previously paid, which used to float around \$140 per tonne.

Lifting the state subsidy on bread, is one of the measures envisaged by the government to contain over expenditures and reduce the budget deficit.

Jordan's insignificant local production of wheat and the huge consumption of flour and bread in the country, (over 400,000 tonnes of flour per year), put a very heavy burden on the government, which retains the monopoly for importing wheat.

According to media reports, government subsidies for the current fiscal year are expected to reach up to JD190 million, exceeding by five-fold the JD38 million allocated by the state

budget for subsidies.

Furthermore, since 1994, the price of wheat on the international market has grown four-fold, price of bread in Jordan has not increased, requiring an additional effort from the government's side to maintain the subsidies.

The National Society for Consumer Protection (NSCP), though understanding the government's difficulties in maintaining subsidies on bread for the whole population, stressed

that any decision by the government not contemplating subsidies for the poor would not be "acceptable."

"As a consumer protection society, we will take a firm stand in favour of keeping subsidies on bread for the poor, especially in this highly critical economic phase which the country is going through," Abdul Fattah Keilani, treasurer at the NSCP, said.

(Continued on page 7)

Lawyers in Jordan — big question where supply exceeds by far market demand

By Casey Stephens
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Last year the Amman law office of Al Jumeidi received about 25 applications from law graduates to train at the office. Only one space was available.

These odds are not uncommon for law school graduates in Jordan looking to complete the training they need to practise law in the Kingdom. With a rising number of law students graduating from Jordan's 12 law schools, it is becoming increasingly difficult for graduates to find an established lawyer to provide them with their one to two years of required on-the-job training. The ones who do get trained are finding it difficult to compete with the 3,500 and plus other lawyers in Jordan.

"This exceeds the need of the country several times," said Abdul Karim Pharoan, an attorney practising in Amman for 15 years.

The problem is multifac-

eted and becomes an item of discussion during every election for the Jordan Bar Association (JBA) council, but solutions are difficult to come by.

The biggest problem, according to Mazen Rosheidat, general secretary of the JBA, is the sheer number of graduates in law not only from Jordan but also from other Arab and foreign countries.

"The students didn't ask the bar before they started to study law if the bar needs this many students," Mr. Rosheidat said.

The problem compounded for graduates to find an established lawyer to provide them with their one to two years of required on-the-job training. The ones who do get trained are finding it difficult to compete with the 3,500 and plus other lawyers in Jordan.

Mr. Rosheidat hopes the government will do something by way of encouraging students toward fields where more jobs are available: "You can't tell the people not to study law, but the government can set a policy to tell the students what the market needs."

The JBA is working on an

amendment to the law to allow registration for the bar only once a year and to admit only about 200 applicants each year. Graduates may currently apply to the bar at four different times a year with an unlimited number of applicants accepted.

As many as 200 graduates will apply at each of the four different times. "It's a big number for a country like Jordan," said Mr. Rosheidat.

Another possible amendment would require that graduates pass an exam before applying for registration with the bar. Under current law, graduates take an oral and written test at the completion of their one-to-two years of training, but are not required to take a test before they train.

Such a test would sift out top students to complete training under supervision of the limited number of qualified trainee lawyers.

Amman lawyer Ahmad Rateb Al Jumeidi, who completed his training

recently, thinks potential lawyers should be put to the test before they even try for the degree.

"It's not the problem of the bar association," he said. "It's a problem of the universities because they accept anybody to practise law. Since the opening of the private universities, the problem became more difficult."

"I suggest to limit the number of students who are accepted to courses for the law degree."

Mr. Jumeidi said he decided to study law because of his father's success as a lawyer.

"Other students continue to pursue law despite a saturated market because they are interested in obtaining the type of reputation enjoyed by respected lawyers, Mr. Jumeidi asserted."

"I wouldn't suggest anybody to do law unless his father or his brother is a well-known lawyer because it's not going to work out."

DEMAND FOR RELEASE:

Palestinian human rights activists demonstrate Monday for the immediate release of their colleague Iyad Al Sarraj, who is under detention by the Palestinian self-rule authority. Mr. Sarraj, who heads an independent citizens rights group, was arrested for the third time last week for speaking out against Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's administration (see page 12) (Reuters photo)



Queen Noor meets with UNFPA executive director

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor on Monday met with the executive director of the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) Nafis Sadeq to discuss findings of the "International Consultative Forum on Education for All" that is being held in Amman, as well as the expansion of joint projects between the UNFPA and non-governmental organizations in Jordan. Queen Noor reiterated His Majesty King Hussein's message to the forum that stressed the importance of education's role in empowering people to face the new needs and challenges of this modern era.

Dr. Sadeq and the Queen also reviewed the progress of the 'Population Programme for the Grassroots' which was launched in August 1994 with funding from UNFPA to introduce reproductive health and family planning concepts in 13 remote villages

where the NHF's Quality of Life Project is being implemented.

The Quality of Life Project, which was initiated in 1989, introduced into the country the concept of comprehensive, integrated development, whose methodology has now been adopted by government and non-governmental agencies.

The project, which strengthens decision-making among women at a home- and community-level by promoting grassroots community participation in planning and implementation schemes, has enabled women to maximise their benefits from the Population Programme's training and educational courses.

Queen Noor also briefed Dr. Sadeq on her upcoming trip to Bosnia to support the women who have been widowed and separated from their families by the wide-scale massacres of Muslim Bosnian men by the Serb militia.

Israeli detention of journalist draws condemnation

BEIRUT (AFP) — Israel has confirmed the arrest of an Agence France-Presse correspondent in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" in South Lebanon, triggering a wave of protests in Lebanon.

Ali Diya, 44, was arrested on Thursday on suspicion of collaboration with the militant group Hizbollah, an Israeli army spokesman said. Israel originally denied it was holding Mr. Diya.

Hizbollah spearheads anti-Israeli attacks in South Lebanon.

A resident of South Lebanon named Ali Diya was arrested on suspicion of collaborating with Hizbollah, the army spokesman said in Tel Aviv.

On Friday a well-informed source in the buffer strip said Mr. Diya had been taken in for questioning by the South

Lebanon army. Israel's proxy militia in the zone.

Diya — the first Lebanese journalist detained in Israel — also works for Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri's private Future Television station and the daily Al Safir newspaper. Officials from the AFP bureau in Jerusalem met with Israeli authorities to determine Mr. Diya's situation and demanded he be released.

Mr. Diya's arrest triggered a wave of protests in Lebanon and was seen by press officials and human rights leaders as "an act of piracy" and a "violation of human rights."

The Lebanese press syndicate spearheaded calls for international pressure on Israel to secure his release. Talal Salman, owner and editor in chief of the mass circulation Al Safir daily in Lebanon told AFP that Mr.

Diya's detention "is a blatant violation of the rights of the Lebanese people and the press."

"This is another crime by Israel against a Lebanese civilian," Mr. Salman said.

The president of the press syndicate, Mohammad Balalaika, said Israel's action "shows the breadth of the Israeli enemy's anger towards the Lebanese media which has always been able to foil attempts by Israel to fool international opinion."

"It is necessary for international opinion to act against such attempts on the freedom of the press and human dignity," Mr. Balalaika said in a statement published by the state-run National News Agency. His call was echoed by the Committee of Support for Lebanese and Arab Prisoners Held in Israeli jails which charged

that Mr. Diya's arrest "is an act of piracy that violates human rights and press laws."

The head of the union of editors, Melhem Karam, accused Israel of "state terrorism."

"Israel has gone beyond all limits to silence the voices of those who fulfil their professional duties by revealing the crimes they are carrying out," Mr. Karam said in a statement to the press.

A human rights group comprising Lebanese intellectuals... appealed... for international efforts to seek Mr. Diya's immediate release.

Mr. Diya has worked for AFP for the last five years and was previously employed by the radio of Israel's proxy militia, the South Lebanon Army.

Egypt back in the limelight as Arabs seek unity

CAIRO (R) — When Arab leaders called their first summit in six years to assess Israeli right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu's historic election triumph, picking the host country was the least of their headaches.

Egypt, the most populous Arab country and the first to make peace with Israel, was pencilled in as the venue before the summit was even announced.

The country which sees itself as the centre of gravity of the Arab World and fondly calls its capital Om Al Dunya (mother of the world) was an obvious choice.

Only President Hosni

Mubarak, Egyptians said, could put a unified front on the fractious Arab World, still split by the fall-out from Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and divided over how fast to make peace with Israel.

"This is the role of Egypt, to narrow gaps, bring partners together. Our role is pivotal," one government official said.

Just days after Mr. Netanyahu won Israel's elections on a platform opposing the basic Arab demand of land-for-peace, Mr. Mubarak launched a series of hasty meetings with Arab leaders.

Bridging over the deep

differences between Syria, Jordan, Gulf Arab states and the Palestinians, Mr. Mubarak and Foreign Minister Amr Musa said the summit agenda should be based on the broad Arab principles of a "balanced peace" with Israel.

"This summit is tailor-made for Mr. Mubarak's foreign policy," said one Cairo-based diplomat. "It's pro-peace but it's got a foot in all of the Arab camps."

When former President Anwar Sadat broke Arab ranks and made peace with Israel in 1979, Egypt was spurred by the Arab World. The Cairo-based Arab League packed its bags and

Egypt was an outcast.

But now officials say that far from undermining relations with Arab states, Cairo's 17-year peace with Israel and its strong links with Washington make it a regional cornerstone.

"We preceded all other attempts at peace," one official said. "We opened the wide avenues for others to follow."

Mr. Musa says Egypt has always been at the centre of Arab politics. "I don't know if we lost that role," he said last week. "We in the Arab World have a certain system. Egypt is the largest Arab country and we are for peace, but a bal-

anced peace."

Mr. Mubarak, who marks 15 years in power this year, hosted the last Arab summit in a vain search for an Arab solution to Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Egypt also hosted talks between Israel and the PLO when their landmark 1993 accord for Palestinian autonomy looked to be stumbling at the first hurdle, and tried to mediate between the warring parties in Yemen's 1994 civil war.

"It's their traditional role and it also fits the personality of the current regime," a Western diplomat said. "Mubarak has built up a

reputation as a serious interlocutor."

In 1994 Jordan's peace deal with Israel turned attention on Amman, prompting sour remarks from Egyptian media accustomed to basking in the regional limelight.

But shockwaves in the Arab World from Mr. Netanyahu's victory gave Egypt a chance to shine again.

"They're reestablishing themselves," a diplomat said. "Sometimes it's present, sometimes it's not, but only Egypt can play this role in the Arab World."

NEWS IN BRIEF

580 Indonesians die on Hajj

JAKARTA (R) — At least 580 Indonesian Muslims died during the Hajj pilgrimage to Saudi Arabia this year, religious affairs Minister Tarmidzi Thaber said on Monday. "About 0.3 per cent (of 195,000 people who went on the Hajj) died because of illness during the pilgrimage this year. Every year the average incidence of Indonesians dying during the Hajj is between 0.2 per cent and 0.4 per cent," Mr. Thaber said. Last year, 219 Indonesians died in Saudi Arabia, mostly because of illness, old age and the effects of the intense Saudi heat. About 85 per cent of Indonesia's 195 million people are Muslim.

Arafat dreams of another child

CAIRO (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's wife, Suha, says her husband talks of his hopes for another child. "Abu Ammar is dreaming of another baby, whether it is a boy or a girl," she said in an interview with the London-based Arabic daily Al Hayat, using Arafat's codename. Mrs. Arafat had a girl last year, the first child for Arafat, 66, after four years of marriage to the French-educated Palestinian woman, who was his secretary before their wedding. She said in the interview published Monday that she was not pregnant. She also complained that Mr. Arafat, who is busy running the Palestinian "National Authority" and travelling abroad, does not have enough time to spend with her or their baby, Zahva. But Mrs. Arafat, 32, who spends much of her time with her daughter in Paris, said she does not regret her marriage to Mr. Arafat. "If I had the chance again, I wouldn't have chosen anybody else but Arafat," she said.

Turkish council approves Iraq patrols

ANKARA (R) — Turkey's powerful security council has approved the mandate for a U.S.-led allied air force in southern Turkey to continue flights to protect Kurds in northern Iraq. Anatolian news agency said on Monday. The council, in a meeting late on Sunday night, decided that the length of the extension should be fixed at a later date by the cabinet of caretaker Prime Minister Mesut Yilmaz. Mr. Yilmaz, whose coalition collapsed earlier this month, had vowed that the mandate would be reviewed before being approved again but a prolonged political crisis has so far prevented any change in the operation. U.S., British and French planes have parolled the skies of northern Iraq from the Incirlik air base in Turkey since shortly after the end of the Gulf war in 1991.

Japan promises \$119m loans to Lebanon

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said on Monday Japan would extend some 13 billion Yen (\$119 million) in loans to Lebanon. Mr. Hashimoto made the pledge during a meeting with visiting Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said. The loans would be used mainly for building water supply and sewage systems in Lebanon, the official said. Mr. Hariri arrived here on Sunday for a three-day visit for talks with Japanese government and business leaders.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 77311-19

PROGRAMME TWO

15:00 ... Iris
15:20 ... Captain Planet
15:45 ... The Bomb Morrison Show
16:25 ... Comedy — ALF
17:00 ... News Flash
17:40 ... News in English
17:45 ... Ordy
17:55 ... Magazine — La Vie Devant Moi
17:58 ... Quo Le Melleur Gagne
18:00 ... Magazine — Savoir Plus Sante
19:00 ... Le Journal
19:15 ... Magazine — Ushuaia
20:25 ... Deep Probe Expeditions
21:10 ... Star Trek
22:00 ... News in English
22:25 ... Feature film — "Murder in New Hampshire"

(These programmes might change due to live transmission of European Championship)

PRAYER TIMES

03:50 ... Fajr
05:25 ... (Shari'a) Dhuhr
12:30 ... Dhuhr
16:17 ... 'Asr
19:48 ... Maghrib
21:23 ... 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Swetlik, Tel. 610740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De La Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623341.

Anglican Church Tel. 652826
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Armenian International Church Tel. 625256
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328.

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691.

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman
Tel. 811295.
English-speaking
Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
Fine weather conditions will prevail with temperatures below average and winds northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly active and seas calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman ... 15/26
Aqaba ... 20/34
Deserts ... 14/29
Jordan Valley ... 20/34

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 28, Aqaba 35. Humidity readings: Amman 52 per cent, Aqaba 40 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mukhlis Halasch ... 819220
Dr. Ruzi Sukkar ... 656457
Dr. Ghazi Abu Shikhab ... 752405
Dr. Mohammad Lubbadch ... 883585
Ferdous pharmacy ... 637055
Nairoukh pharmacy ... 623672
Al Salam pharmacy ... 636730
Yacoub pharmacy ... 644962
Shmeisani pharmacy ... 637660
Nairoukh pharmacy ... 623672
Najib pharmacy ... 847632

IRBID:
Dr. Ahmad Qanu ... 281484
Alquds pharmacy ... (—)

ZARQA:
Dr. Ziyad Fatin ... 992591
Khalifeh pharmacy ... 958417

EMERGENCIES
Food Control Centre ... 637111
Civil Defence Department ... 661111

Civil Defence Immediate
Rescue ... 630341
Civil Defence Emergency ... 199
Rescue Police 192 621111, 637777
Blood Bank ... 617101
Highway Police ... 843402
Traffic Police ... 896390
Public Security Department ... 630321
Hotel Complaints ... 605800
Price Complaints ... 661176
Water and Sewerage
Complaints ... 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints ... 787111
Telephone Information
(directory assistance) ... 121
Overseas Calls ... 010230
Central Amman Telephone
Repairs ... 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs ... 661101
Jordan Television ... 773111
Radio Jordan ... 741111
Water Authority ... 680100
Jordan Electricity Authority ... 815615

Electric Power
Company ... 636381
RJ Flight Information ... 08-53200
Oucca Alia Int. Airport ... 06-53200

HOSPITALS
AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khalidi Maternity, J. Ann ... 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Ann. ... 643441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity ... 643362
Malhas, J. Amman ... 636140
Palestine Shmeisani ... 607071
Shmeisani Hospital ... 669131
University Hospital ... 845845
Al-Musaher Hospital ... 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali ... 666127/27
Al-Ahli, Abdali ... 664164/6
Iltam, Al-Mubajreen ... 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Adrafieh ... 775112/6
Army, Marja ... 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital ... 686100
Amial Hospital ... 607155
The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery ... 865199

ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital ... (09)900560
Jbn Sina Hospital ... (09)986732
Al Hikma Modern Hospital ... (09)990990

IRBID:
Princess Basma Hospital ... (02)275553
Greek Catholic Hospital ... (02)272275
Be Al-Nufusa Hospital ... (02)247155
AQAIA:
Princess Haya Hospital ... (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)513000, 5, where it should always be verified. Information on other flights can be supplied on phone (08) 52700.

ARRIVALS Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

08:00 ... Damascus (RJ)
08:15 ... Sanaa (RJ)
08:30 ... Muscat (RJ)
08:45 ... Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
09:20 ... Beirut (RJ)
09:35 ... Dubai (RJ)
10:00 ... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
10:15 ... New York (RJ)
10:30 ... London (RJ)
10:45 ... Frankfurt (RJ)
11:00 ... Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
11:15 ... Salalah (add) (RJ)

Other Flights
14:00 ... Munich, Aleppo (YP)
14:10 ... Frankfurt (YP)
16:00 ... Rome (AZ)
16:30 ... Dubai (EK)
19:25 ... Amsterdam (KL)
20:20 ... Aden (YV)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 ... Aqaba (RW)
19:45 ... Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights
06:35 ... Beirut (RJ)
09:30 ... Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
11:10 ... Aqaba, Paris, Madrid (RJ)
12:10 ... Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)
12:15 ... Amsterdam, Montreal, Toronto (RJ)
13:10 ... Geneva, Brussels (RJ)
13:15 ... Paris (RJ)
13:15 ... Cairo (RJ)
14:05 ... London (RJ)
16:30 ... Salalah (add) (RJ)
21:10 ... Larnaca (RJ)
21:20 ... Jeddah (RJ)
21:45 ... Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
22:30 ... Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)

Other Flights

09:15 ... London (BA)
15:10 ... Frankfurt (YP)
15:45 ... Munich (YP)
17:00 ... Rome (AZ)
17:30 ... Dubai (EK)
20:45 ... Kuwait (KL)
21:20 ... Aden (YV)
22:15 ... Cairo (MS)
01:55 ... Bucharest (RO)
04:00 ... Amsterdam (KL)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights
10:00 ... Aqaba (Marka Airport) (RW)

HJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday
Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman 5:00 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg:

Apricot ... 800 / 300
Apple ... 700 / 300
Banana ... 100/000
Banana (Mukammur) ... 250/250
Banana (imported) ... 70 / 50
Cabbage ... 160/100
Carrot ... 250/150
Cauliflower ... 250/150
Cucumber (large) ... 140 / 130
Cucumber (small) ... 200 / 140
Eggplant ... 300 / 140
Garlic ... 650/400
Lemon ... 800/500
Marrow (large) ... 150 / 100
Marrow (small) ... 220 / 100
Mulukhiyah ... 160/110
Onion (dry) ... 130 / 80
Okra ... 100/60
Orange ... 400/300
Pau ... 300/250
Peach ... 350/400
Pepper (hot) ... 440 / 320
Pepper (sweet) ... 440/320
Potato ... 250/150
String Bean ... 500 / 350
Tomato ... 120/70
Water melon ... 100 / 70

Home News

Jordan well-positioned for increasing information technology, European Commission official says

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan, with its well-functioning telecommunications network and its well-educated people, is placed well to take advantage of the latest technologies in information to invite industrial interest and investments to the Kingdom, a European Commission official said Sunday.

Dr. Michael Bosco, head of the information technology and international cooperation department of the European Commission, also said he was impressed by the high level of interest shown by Jordanians in information technologies.

Dr. Bosco was speaking to the Jordan Times after a three-member European team made a presentation of "new opportunities for cooperation between Jordan and the European Union in information technologies."

The presentation was made on the occasion of an "Information Day" organised at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Engineering and Technology.

The idea is to bring about cooperation between Jordan and the European Union in information technologies," Dr. Bosco told the Jordan Times, noting that the Kingdom's telecommunication system was working well.

The implication was that in this age of advanced technologies, telecommunication links are the central medium for sharing information and without an efficient telecommunication system no country could really move forward to make use of the technologies, he said.

Coupled with the "well-functioning" telecommunications system, said Dr. Bosco, the high level of education in Jordan and the interest shown by Jordanians in advanced technologies are "assets" that the Kingdom could use to take full advantage of cooperation programmes offered by the European Union.

The European Union has launched a cooperation programme with Mediterranean countries estimated to cost more than \$2.3 billion "to secure the ground for future generations of information technologies — the ESPRIT programme."

The European Union considers Jordan as a Mediterranean country and, as such, the Kingdom qualifies as a partner in all programmes in this context.

In a press release, the organisers of Monday's presentation said "as early as September this year, proposals for joint work in software engineering and computer manufacturing will be selected for financial support."

The presentation was made by a three-member team headed by Dr. Bosco on a tour of the Middle East region to attend similar events in several other countries which are involved in the European-Mediterranean cooperation programme.

"It is not European assistance, but

European cooperation" with the countries concerned, Dr. Bosco emphasised.

Khaled Touqan, dean of the Faculty of Engineering and Technology at the University of Jordan, voiced optimism that Jordan and the European Union could cooperate closely, given that "Jordan may be, according to Business Week, the most advanced country in the Arab World in computer use."

During their stay here, the European Commission officials will also be meeting with officials of the National Information Centre and the Higher Council for Science and Technology.

Dr. Bosco said he was fully confident that "more Jordanian researchers will be able to keep in touch with their European colleagues and will contribute towards the integration of the Mediterranean region in the global information society."

Education for All: Students, educators tell their tales

By Haya Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The second day of the Mid-Decade Meeting of the Education for All Forum was highlighted by a panel of six grassroots people in a presentation that gave the meeting a raw and close-up interpretation of issues fundamental to the purpose of this international gathering.

The group of panelists included a number of students, a teacher and a neo-literate mother and activist of women's literacy.

First to speak was a twelve-year-old girl, Rawan, a ninth grader at Baqa'a Preparatory School.

"It's a great idea," Rawan started off by saying, "to have the opportunity to talk about the problems we are facing at schools."

Rawan spoke of the lack of resources, the inavailability of information in libraries and the fact that transport from homes to schools usually entails long, walking hours, and late arrivals to schools.

Bitram, a 15-year-old girl attending Um Butmah secondary school, also spoke of the hardships involved in transport but went on to point out the pressures of early marriage placed on girls at school.

"I don't intend to marry until after I graduate from university," she said, earning applause from the audience.

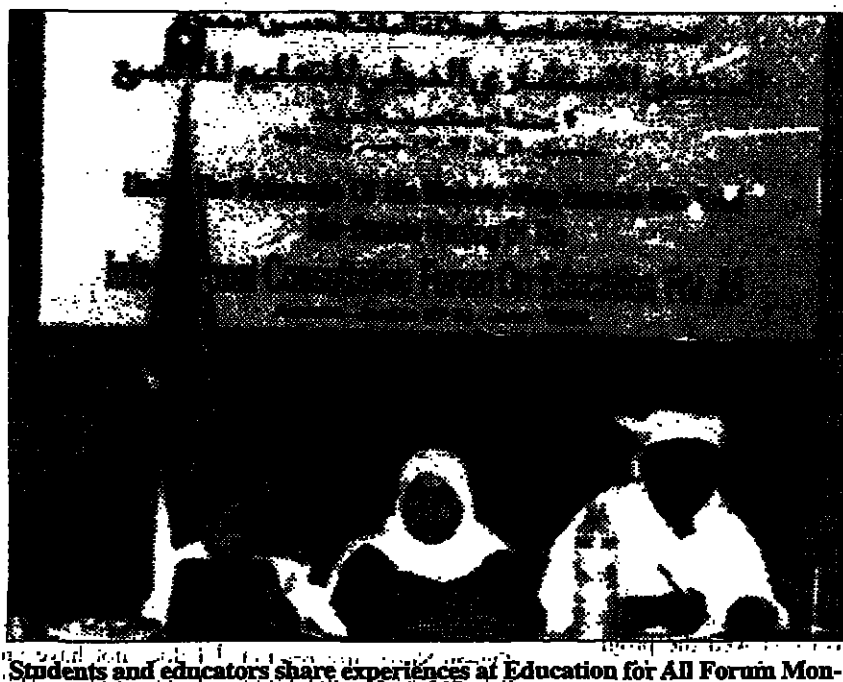
Others to speak were Magdalene Motti, a 46-year-old rural woman from Kenya, driven through a series of hardships in rural life to seek literacy for herself and a better future for her 10 children.

"When I was young my parents took me out of school because they believed it was not important to educate girls," she said.

Magdalene took on a job as a cleaner to support herself, her family, her failing business "due to the fact I couldn't count."

After taking literacy classes and encountering a new sense of strength from her new-found empowerment, Magdalene now works actively in promoting literacy for women.

Mohammad Ba from Dakar, Senegal, is a 17-year-old who recently enrolled in literacy classes while still working as a porter in a central market at Dakar.



Students and educators share experiences at Education for All Forum Monday (Petra photo).

"We know we are citizens as well and we try to help each other in our struggles so we can all learn," he stated.

Luzma Castano, a teacher from a remote area in Colombia, rode horses to reach her group of students in the mountainous region where she worked.

"It was seven hours on horseback to reach my students," she said.

"Even so, the children I taught eventually dropped out, because they needed to help their parents on farms or at homes. In any case, there wasn't much we could do to teach them."

In 1984, Luzma said, all that changed. With new school programmes being adopted, "tremendous" changes were made.

"We started working closely with the pupils, caring more for their individual needs, and under better guidance, with better evaluation systems and finally with more freedom, more

creativity," she said.

"Even my role changed. I became a helper, a facilitator and the children were collaborators in their own education."

"We could actually finally see those children learning," Luzma said.

Brandy Natividad from the Philippines told a somewhat different story from the rest. A street child brought up without parental care who used carton boxes as a bed to lie in on the sidewalks of streets, he attended school whenever he could.

"I washed my clothes in construction sites, had baths in small inns and did my homework under the light of a street lamp."

Brandy's schooling was interrupted twice due to lack of finances, and it wasn't until Brandy met a street educator that he returned to school and was able to complete his primary education.

At fifteen, he is now in his first year of high school and speaking in the bright and optimistic tones of a boy of his age.

Final exams begin today

AMMAN (Petra)—The Ministry of Education has finalised arrangements for the second and final session of Tawjihi (end of high school stage) examinations due to start today in all parts of Jordan with the participation of 96,888 students.

A ministry announcement said that it has mobilised 13,500 teachers to supervise the examination session and watch over the work of students who will take the examination in 1,288 halls.

Minister of Education Munther Al Masri has requested the Ministry of Health, the Civil Defence Department and the Public Security Department to provide whatever emergency assistance might be required during the two-week examination session.

Dr. Masri said the Ministry of Education had set up a central operations room in Amman to receive complaints or requests for assistance noting that a number of tawjihi students will take the examination in hospitals, at reformatory centres and prisons and other places.

The director of the ministry's examinations department, Ahmad Al Salem, said the ministry had named 6,500 teachers to mark the students papers and evaluate their work, adding that these teachers will start their task the third day of the examinations at centres in Amman, Irbid, Zarqa, Balqa, Karak and Maan.

The ministry of Education earlier announced that as of the 1996-97 scholastic year, the two-session examination will end and students will have a single examination at the end of the scholastic year.

JBA plans appeal after lawyer detained on slander charge

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—The Jordan Bar Association (JBA) Monday said it will appeal to His Majesty King Hussein, following the arrest of one of its members Saturday by the State Security prosecutor on charges of slander against the King.

JBA vice president Ziad Khasawneh said the union is planning to send a memo to King Hussein requesting to meet with him to discuss the existing articles concerning slander following the apprehension of lawyer Mohammad Salameh Dwaik.

"We are thinking of appealing to His Majesty the King for a review studying the existing articles in the laws, because it is not fair to arrest individuals just on the basis of allegations," Mr. Khasawneh said.

Mr. Dwaik, 42, who is being detained in Jawidh prison, was arrested late Saturday night after his neighbour complained to the authorities that he made remarks that were slanderous to the King and the government, judicial sources said.

In case the prosecution decided to press charges, Mr. Dwaik would be tried by the State Security Court for slandering the King, and at a civil court for insulting the

government, the source said.

According to the official source, when questioned by the prosecution, Mr. Dwaik denied making any slanderous remark against the King or the government, but "we have witness that heard Mr. Dwaik when he made his remarks."

"Until now, we are still investigating the case and we have questioned several witnesses," the source told the Jordan Times.

According to Mr. Khasawneh, the detained attorney had a dispute with his office neighbours who made the allegations against him.

"I do not think that Mr. Dwaik would make any slanderous remarks (against the King), and I do not think it is fair to apprehend him only on allegations made by his neighbours," Mr. Khasawneh told the Jordan Times.

Slander against the Royal family is a violation of the law and is punishable by up to three years' imprisonment.

Mr. Khasawneh said the JBA has appointed lawyer Mohammad Hantoush as Mr. Dwaik's defence attorney.

A request to free Mr. Dwaik on bail Monday was turned down by State Prosecutor Major Ahmad Harhan who is in charge of the investigation.

Jordan, UNESCO discuss tourism, preservation of archaeological sites

AMMAN (Petra)—The United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) is willing to offer Jordan various forms of assistance to boost the Kingdom's efforts aimed at protecting its archaeological sites and preserving human heritage in line with the organisation's objectives, Director General Federico Mayor announced Monday.

Speaking at a meeting with Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Saleh Irshaidat, Mr. Mayor said UNESCO was ready to present to Jordan a comprehensive set of ideas designed to protect the archaeological sites of the Greco-Roman city of Jerash and will study the Kingdom's request for including the ancient city in UNESCO's list of world cultural heritage sites.

Mr. Mayor, who is in Jordan to take part in the International Consultative Forum on Education for All which started Sunday, said that Jordan and other countries of the region have lately witnessed increased tourism, making it necessary to try and balance the need for tourism with the imperative of preserving archaeological sites.

He said UNESCO is willing to help Jordan protect its cultural wealth including Petra which is already on the organisation's list of human cultural heritage, adding that UNESCO can help promote and implement tourist plans that have no adverse consequences on the preservation of antiquities.

Minister Irshaidat reviewed with Mr. Mayor Jordan's plans for developing tourism, stressing that the Kingdom is keen on maintaining the closest possible cooperation with UNESCO to ensure the attainment of this objective.

Referring to Petra, the minister said special attention was being given to that ancient site in terms of organising tourists' visits, protecting the archaeological sites and upgrading the various tourist facilities.

He voiced Jordan's appreciation of UNESCO's continued assistance in protecting Petra and expressed gratitude to the World Bank, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Japanese government for their continued aid to Jordan in this field.

Mr. Mayor also met Minister of Education Munther Al Masri and discussed UNESCO-Jordanian cooperation in education and the organisation-funded projects in Jordan and the Arab World.

Mr. Mayor inspected the offices of the Jordanian national UNESCO committee and was briefed by the committee's chairman Thouqan Obeidat on its various activities.

Jordan hosts UNESCO's regional office for education in the Arab States (UNED-BAS) and UNESCO's coordinating Unit of Educational Innovation Programme for Development in the Arab States (EIPDAS).

Jordan, Palestine discuss cooperation

AMMAN (J.T.)—Cooperation between Jordan and the Palestine National Authority (PNA) in economic and trade fields was at the centre of discussions between Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb and his Palestinian counterpart Maher Al Masri Monday.

The two sides reviewed obstacles impeding the exchange of trade and the transportation of goods across the Jordan River bridges at a meeting attended by in the Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi and Palestine

Ambassador to Jordan Omar Al Khatib.

Efforts are underway by both sides to overcome the obstacles impeding trade and for the implementation of the Jordanian-Palestinian trade agreement with the aim of ensuring the continued flow of goods between the two banks of the River Jordan, according to Mr. Abul Ragheb.

He said after the meeting that the two sides will draw up a joint plan to ensure such cooperation for the benefit of the Palestinian and Jordanian people and added that a meeting for the secretaries general of the ministries of trade in Palestine and Jordan on the West Bank will be held within a week to be followed by a meeting at the ministerial level later in the month.

Referring to the Israeli obstacles impeding trade between the two sides, Mr. Masri said: "We have to re-examine the Palestinian-Israeli agreements and should expand the Jordan-

ian-Palestinian deals in a manner that would ensure closer Jordanian-Palestinian cooperation and reducing Palestinian reliance on the Israeli market."

Meanwhile, the Palestine Affairs Department said Monday that it is currently spending JD 1,270,000 on projects to improve the conditions at Palestine refugee camps in Jordan.

A department statement said the allocations for improvement are annually included in the department's fiscal budget and mainly aim to improve services, sports and cultural activities run by the camp's centres, the rehabilitation of the disabled as well as environmental and health services.

Nearly 40 per cent of the estimated 3.2 million registered Palestine refugees since the 1948 war and displaced Palestinians from live in Jordan, many of whom in refugee camps spread in the northern and central regions of Jordan.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

Display of handmade carpets by Masri Rashid at "Art Gallery" Jabal Weibdeh, until June 23 (Tel. 622-2271).

Abstract (plastic) art by Arab woman artists at Bahat Art Gallery, "Gardens" street (Tel. 682-598) until July 4.

Furniture exhibition at Amman International Exhibition Mart Al-Haram, until June 20.

Time Arts exhibition entitled "What About Plagues" at Concept for Consultancy, Quarters (Tel. 815-384) until June 30.

Works by contemporary Arab artists at Darat Al-Funun, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 30.

Photography exhibit by American photographer George Vase entitled "Passage Across the Jordan" at the American Centre, until June 22.

Works by Rafic Maqsood at the French Cultural Centre, until June 22.

Works by Ahmad Nawash at the Jordan Plastic Arts Association, Jabal Weibdeh, until June 23 (Tel. 622-2271).

"Das Schöne und Die Dichtung" at Gothic Institut at 4:00 p.m.

"Sound of Music" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

BRITISH WEEK

British Theatre Exhibition at the Foster Grand Hotel, until June 19.

The Mop Tops "Beetles" in concert at the Foster Grand Hotel at 7:00 p.m.

LECTURE

"On the Sidelines of the Ministerial Crisis in Turkey: The Army Facing the Hard Choice: Secularism or Islam?" (Arabic) at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

Jerash Festival to feature local, international culture

By Mervat Suwadeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN—Around 60 local, Arab and international groups will participate in the 15th Jerash Festival For Culture and Arts, which is scheduled to start June 17, the Festival's director announced Monday.

Akram Masarweh said this year's festival will feature 15 local, 17 Arab and 15 international groups, including renowned Arab singers like Majida Rumi, Najwa Karam and Sabah Fakhri. The Lebanese Karakala dance troupe, the British Cavern Beatles, the Polish Kalaryana Jankowska opera and the National Egyptian Ballet group will also perform during the 18-day event.

Mr. Masarweh said this year's festival is characterised by an unprecedented participation of Arab groups that will present various types of classical Arab singing.

"This year we tried to highlight this type of singing



Jerash Festival director Akram Masarweh announces festival plans Monday (Petra photo).

which does not get enough attention specially from the young generation," Mr. Masarweh said. "We want to revive this type of art and keep it alive in the minds of the young ones," he told a press conference.

The 1996 festival also offers a wide range of activities for children and will include plays, poetry recitals, book fairs art exhibitions and musical performances.

Among the festival activities will be a plastic arts exhibition that will feature the works of 13 artists from

Jordan and the United Arab Emirates.

More than fifty poets from eleven Arab countries will read from their works at the Abdul Hamid Shoman foundation in Jabal Weibdeh.

An annual handicraft exhibition will include pieces from throughout the Kingdom in addition to handicrafts from Palestine, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates.

The Jerash Festival was first launched in 1981 by Her Majesty Queen Noor who lights the torch at the festival opening each year.



AL - RASHID HOSPITAL (Psychiatric)

The first private psychiatric hospital in Jordan is operating now, receiving psychiatric emergencies, and admissions over 24 hours, staffed with a psychiatric team, accepting short and long stay patients, both males and females. The location is Abu - Nusair village which is on the way from Abu - Nusair housing estate to Baqa'a Camp.

Tel. 844238 / 838882 Fax 847639
P.O.Box 540851 Amman 11937 Jordan

Major condemns callous bombing; police seek driver

MANCHESTER, England (R) — Prime Minister John Major Monday condemned the suspected IRA bombing of a British city as a "callous and barbaric crime" and said he would not be deflected from seeking peace in Northern Ireland.

In a message to the people of Manchester, where more than 200 people were hurt Saturday by a huge truck bomb, Mr. Major said his heart went out to those caught up in the blast.

"The terrorists must see that their guns and their bombs will not deflect a democratic society either from the belief it holds so dear or from the determined pursuit of a lasting peace in Northern Ireland," he said in a statement.

Manchester city centre remained sealed off, paralysing business in one of Britain's biggest cities, as police cleared the devastation wrought by the bomb that exploded outside a major shopping centre, shattering windows over a huge area.

Police said it was one of the largest bombs ever planted on the British mainland, containing one to 1.5 tonnes of explosive material. Eight victims remained in hospital Monday, including one woman who had needed more than 300 stitches to her face.

Two colour pictures of the truck exploding were released by police who said they were carefully sorting through 40 hours of video camera film for clues about the bombers' identity.

"We have six to eight men looking purely at video film," said Detective Superintendent Bernard Rees, the man leading the hunt for the bombers.

"The size of this team could increase...It's a huge task," he told a news conference, saying the bombers had been "quite audacious" in managing to park the truck in the city centre without drawing attention to themselves.

No group has yet claimed responsibility but the Irish Republican Army (IRA) planted a number of bombs in London after breaking off a 17-month ceasefire in February.

Sinn Fein, the IRA's political wing, has been barred from multi-party talks on the future of British-ruled Northern Ireland because the guerrillas refuse to reinstate the truce.

The blast left Sinn Fein farther away than ever from being admitted to the historic peace talks.

Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams has expressed sympathy with the victims but avoided condemning the incident. He said all sides must "dig deep" for a lasting peace built on dialogue.

Pro-British Protestants in Northern Ireland said the bomb proved that the IRA and Sinn Fein could never be trusted.

"The IRA have no sincerity whatsoever...therefore cut them out of the talks altogether. Let's accept the fact that we cannot rehabilitate them, that there can be no metamorphosis," Ulster Unionist Party security spokesman Ken

Maginnis said.

Britain indicated that not even an IRA truce would now automatically open the door to Sinn Fein.

"I think it will be very much more difficult for the IRA to convince the rest of the world that any ceasefire they might now propose would be permanent and genuine," British Home Secretary Michael Howard told BBC Radio Monday.

"You can't let off a bomb in Manchester Saturday, declare a ceasefire Sunday and expect to be admitted to peace talks Monday," Mr. Howard said.

Irish Prime Minister John Bruton called the bomb a "slap in the face" to people who had been trying to give Sinn Fein a chance and said his government would be reviewing its relationship with the organisation at a meeting Tuesday.

The IRA, which has been fighting for 25 years to overturn British rule in Northern Ireland, ended its truce in protest at what it saw as British intransigence in the peace process.

Manchester Police said the van containing the bomb had been bought Friday by a man with an Irish accent in the town of Peterborough, 160 kilometres southeast of Manchester.

The purchaser, who paid £2,000 (\$3,500), sent the money to the previous owner by taxi so as not to identify himself. He later picked up the empty truck from a car park.

Insurers put the cost of damage as high as £100 million (\$165 million). "There are a number of buildings which will have to be demolished. It's a big repair job," Assistant Chief Constable Colin Phillips told the news conference.

Meanwhile Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has condemned a huge bomb blast which injured more than 200 people in England Saturday.

"This is an act which should not be supported," Col. Qadhafi was quoted as telling the official Libyan news agency.

"Should it be confirmed that the IRA was behind the bombing which took place...In the centre of the English city of Manchester, it would mean that the IRA deviated a great deal from liberating Ireland," the Libyan leader added.

The British embassy in Cairo said Monday it welcomed Col. Qadhafi's weekend statement.

"We welcome the fact that he has so promptly joined the chorus of condemnation of this horrific attack," an embassy spokesman said.

Last year Britain said Libya had answered a series of questions about its links with the Irish Republican Army in what it called a positive step towards complying with United Nations resolutions to renounce "terrorism."

But Western diplomats said Monday that Britain still wanted to see concrete steps from Col. Qadhafi, whose country has been under a U.N. air embargo since 1992 for refusing to hand over two Libyans accused of the 1988 Lockerbie bombing.



Pregnant bomb victim Russell, aged 23, lies in a hospital bed at St. Mary's in Manchester with her boyfriend Michael Kilpatrick. Ms. Russell was blown 15 feet through the air by the blast, however Doctor's say that both she and her baby, due in two weeks, are uninjured (Reuters photo)

Awami League confident of forming government with Jatiya support

DHAKA (AFP) — Sheikh Hasina Wajed, the daughter of Bangladesh's founding leader, is set to become the nation's second female prime minister, following the confirmation that the Jatiya Party (JP) will support her.

Party sources Monday said Mrs. Hasina's Awami League was now confident of forming Bangladesh's next government after the JP of jailed former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad reaffirmed its support Sunday night.

"Yes, of course, we have lent support to (the) Awami League," JP Secretary-General Anwar Hossain told reporters late Sunday.

He added: "Those who expressed different views did that in their personal capacity, (and) it is sure that those views in no way can undo the statement issued by myself and party acting chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury" Saturday.

His comments, which ended a day of confusion over the party's role when it emerged as the power broker after the June 12 general elections, followed 90-minute talks with Awami League chief and Prime Minister-apparent Hasina Wajed.

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, Mrs. Hasina's father, led Bangladesh to independence from Pakistan in 1971. He was killed and his post-independence government toppled during a 1975 bloody military coup.

Gen. Ershad's brother, G.M. Kader, also elected on a Jatiya ticket, was at the talks along with other senior leaders.

The JP leader's wife, Raushan, met Gen. Ershad in prison Sunday night and later told the Janaknatha newspaper: "I have no objection to the statement issued, but it would have been better to have arrived at such a decision in a party meeting."

Gen. Ershad, who ruled Bangladesh with an iron fist for nearly nine years, is serving a 13-year prison term for graft. He won five seats, the maximum permitted for each candidate, in the June 12 elections.

In a handwritten letter, published in the Bangladesh Patrika newspaper, Gen. Ershad said he was authorising Mr. Hossain

and his brother to negotiate the support for the Awami League.

It was still unclear what the conditions were, but apparently Gen. Ershad's release was a key consideration.

However, a League spokesman told AFP that Mrs. Hasina maintained her government would allow "the laws of the land to take its own course" in the case.

A presidential palace source said diplomats and politicians from leading parties had held talks with President Abdur Rahman Biswas over the past few days. "We have no fascination for any party, but we would like to see the constitutional process followed," he quoted the diplomats as telling Mr. Biswas.

The source added that Mr. Biswas, a member of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), maintained that he would follow the constitution and call upon the majority party to form the new government.

"Most likely, if all goes well, the new government will take the oath of office around June 24," he said, referring to the end of the election process after repolling Wednesday in 27 constituencies.

Newspapers reported the BNP was still trying to woo the JP, but political commentators said it was unlikely that Gen. Ershad would reverse his stand, as he held the BNP responsible for his jailing.

The Awami League now leads a bloc of 167 seats in the 300-seat parliament — 134 of its own, plus the support of one independent MP, the JP's 29 seats and two seats held by two smaller allied parties.

A total 151 out of 300 parliamentary seats is needed for an absolute majority.

Mrs. Khaleda's BNP holds 104 seats.

MPs will select another 30 seats reserved for women when parliament convenes.

The Election Commission has gazetted 273 results, despite the BNP's demand that results be withheld until their complaints regarding irregularities in 111 constituencies were investigated.

Russian TV puppets push the boat out on poll night

MOSCOW (R) — President Boris Yeltsin may be engaged in a deadly serious fight for political survival but Monday Russian television let its hair down with a hilarious election night spoof.

The satirical Kukly (Puppets) Programme on NTV independent television, in a special broadcast just hours after early results put Mr. Yeltsin narrowly ahead, showed the candidates celebrating and falling into the Moscow River.

After an all-night party aboard a river pleasure boat, only Mr. Yeltsin and his main Communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov were left standing on deck, looking at the debris.

The two men are expected to meet in a run-off early next month.

"Hey, where are you going?" Mr. Yeltsin's puppet shouted as the others plunged into the water. "Ungrateful people. They ate, drank and never even said 'thank you'."

"The rats have abandoned the ship," remarked the rubber likeness of Mr. Zyuganov, bobbing and gesticulating beside him.

Kukly's special election-night edition portrayed Kremlin security chief Alexander Korzhakov and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev dressed as waiters serving drinks.

"Some people think the president is being elected today," said Gen. Korzhakov. "That's not true. Today they are electing us, voting on whether or not we should continue to serve in the buffet."

Mr. Yeltsin, sitting at the head of the table

laden with food and vodka bottles, proposed a toast. "Let us drink for the best man to win the election," he said.

Ultra-nationalist candidate Vladimir Zhirinovskiy objected. "Why should I drink to his (Yeltsin's) victory?" he asked his neighbour at the table, liberal presidential hopeful Grigory Yavlinsky.

Mikhail Gorbachev, who finished as one of the also-rans in the real election, was shown desperately seeking attention, calling a telephone hotline offering intimate conversation services.

"I need to talk to someone. Today was such a tense day," said the former Soviet president. "Don't say anything. I will do the talking. I have great potential...I always wanted consensus. I wanted it so much and still do."

In another scene, Central Electoral Commission Chairman Nikolai Ryabov, exhausted by counting thousands of ballot papers, began turning them into paper darts and throwing them into the river.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy was shown reeling in some of the papers with a fishing rod. "Look, they voted for me," he cried. "Another one for me."

The only candidates to survive the trip were Mr. Yeltsin and Mr. Zyuganov. The rest jumped overboard to retrieve lost votes.

Kukly has gone from strength to strength, surviving legal moves by prosecutors last year to take it to court for making fun of Mr. Yeltsin.

Singer banned after remark about Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR (AFP) — Malaysia's central Selangor state has banned all shows by an award-winning singer after he allegedly made a flippant remark about Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, reports said Monday. The popular singer and songwriter M. Nasir was to be punished for showing disrespect to the premier, a state official was quoted saying in the New Straits Times daily. The decision followed the Information Ministry's Saturday banning of Nasir from government radio and television stations, after the singer allegedly quipped, "who is Dr. Mahathir?" when told Dr. Mahathir would be attending a poetry recital. Nasir also apparently did not turn up for the show although he was scheduled to recite a poem. The Singapore-born singer has since denied making the remark, but authorities are not backing off. "Such misconduct should not go unpunished," said Abdul Fatah Iskandar, a member of Selangor's State Executive Council for Youth and Sports, adding that Nasir's loyalty to Malaysia was now suspect.

Paralysed man sues doctor for keeping him alive

SAN DIEGO (R) — Virgil Ray Noonkester is suing his doctor for keeping him alive. Mr. Noonkester is asking Dr. Lawrence Kline, who saved his life by ordering a tracheotomy in December 1993 when he suffered respiratory failure, to pay his medical costs and for round-the-clock attendants now needed to keep him alive. He alleged the doctor disregarded his wish not to take special measures to save him. Mr. Noonkester, 67, has amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, an incurable degenerative nerve disorder commonly known as Lou Gehrig's disease. Paralysed from the waist down, he can only move his head back and forth and up and down.

Chinese in richest county earn \$3,132 a year

BEIJING (R) — Changdao county has become the richest county in China with per capita gross domestic product (GDP) at 26,000 yuan (\$3,132) in 1995, the Xinhua News Agency said. The per capita GDP of Changdao, composed of 32 islands with 40,000 residents, is expected to reach \$10,000 by the year 2000, it quoted county official Song Xiuwu as saying. Each household in the county in eastern Shandong province has at least one television and one washing machine. 90 per cent have refrigerators and over 50 per cent have telephones, video recorders and audio systems, Xinhua said.

Beijing residents are more aloof — survey

BEIJING (R) — The traditionally "friendly and warm-hearted" residents of China's capital, Beijing, now know less about their neighbours, a survey said. The survey, carried by the Xinhua News Agency, showed only 18 per cent of the 600 people interviewed said they knew all their neighbours well, while two per cent said they did not know any of their neighbours. Some 62 per cent of the interviewees, aged between 16 and 35, said neighbours were only nodding acquaintances and almost all said just one per cent of their close friends come from the same neighbourhood. Beijing's residents have traditionally kept close ties with each other for decades. But the survey said relationships have become more aloof as the city has become more crowded with high-rise buildings.

Republicans suspect Hillary Clinton in FBI files affair

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Republican lawmakers said Sunday they suspect U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton may have played a role in the White House obtaining more than 400 sensitive FBI background files in 1993 and 1994.

William Clinger, chairman of the House Government Reform Committee, said his panel will begin hearings Wednesday and suggested that Hillary Clinton was a suspect in the search for the person responsible for ordering the White House to get the records.

Appearing on the programme Fox News Sunday, Mr. Clinger said "I know that the first lady was involved in the firing of the Travel Office seven," referring to staff members fired shortly after Mr. Clinton took office in 1993.

"We do know that she had a direct role in that. It has been denied by the White House, but she was involved," Mr. Clinger said. "So I think that has obviously raised our suspicions."

Senator Mitch McConnell of Kentucky said on the same programme he doubted that low-level White House officials were responsible. "Lower level people don't get that kind of information."

Both agreed that the affair had the potential to reach the proportions of a Watergate, the scandal that led to President Richard Nixon's resignation from office.

"I think at this point it's premature to say it's approaching that (Watergate level), although I think it has the potential to do that," Mr. Clinger said.

On Face The Nation on CBS, Senate majority leader Trent Lott said he felt there was "a pattern of concealment or obstruction" by the White House in both the Whitewater affair and with the FBI files.

"I think that needs to be looked into," the Mississippi Republican said, saying he favoured holding congressional hearings on the issue. "There's a pattern of things being done and then everyone saying, 'gee, I didn't know that.'"

President Bill Clinton has said that he will take responsibility for the "innocent bureaucratic mistake" and has apologised. He said none of the FBI information, which included files on some top Republicans, had been abused.

Associate White House counsel Mark Fabiani said on the Fox programme that obtaining the files was "a big mistake, it was a huge mistake."

"So far, every fact which has emerged points to an innocent bureaucratic blunder," he said.

Last week, the FBI sharply rebuked the White House after its own inquiry found "egregious violations of privacy had occurred." Director Louis Freeh ordered the agency to immediately adopt reforms making it more difficult to obtain secret files.

Prospective Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole compared the incident to the infamous "enemies list" gathered by President Richard Nixon's White House in the early 1970s.

House of Representatives majority leader Dick Armey of Texas has dismissed Mr. Clinton's explanation.

"I think what the president is saying is untrue, but I don't think the president

knows enough about truth or falsehood outside of his own convenience and his own life to understand what is an untruth when he says it," Mr. Armey said in an interview on the CNN programme Evans and Novak.

Republicans paradoxically are counting on Americans' still-fresh memories of FBI manipulation by Nixon to help their efforts to discredit President Clinton.

Congressional committees are scrambling to schedule hearings this week to examine why White House employees believed they had the right to seek and receive from the FBI, between December 1993 and February 1994, private files on more than 400 people.

Nothing for now indicates the Democratic administration used the highly confidential information for partisan ends, as was flagrantly done in the Watergate scandal that forced then-President Nixon to resign in August 1974.

The FBI files contain detailed information on individuals concerning their private life, financial situation and health.

The House of Representatives government and reform oversight panel is set to hold its first hearing on the file transfers Wednesday.

The White House has blamed the situation on a "mistaken understanding" that the individuals whose files were improperly obtained still had access to the White House under the Clinton administration.

When the first FBI files were given to the administration, in late 1993, the White House was in the throes of a siege mentality following a series of blunders that cost Mr. Clinton some of his initial luster.

The Republicans are banging away at the Watergate theme, aware that scandal has more resonance with the public than the murky Whitewater affair, entangled in old fraud cases in Arkansas, where the president was formerly governor.

The comparison for now seems outrageous. Mr. Clinton has insisted that he would "never tolerate or condone any kind of enemies' list." But the Republicans know that their accusations will leave traces of doubt.

"Nothing is potentially as dangerous as using the FBI for its own purposes," wrote Daniel Schorr, who reported on Watergate, in the New York Times.

Mr. Nixon's misuse of the FBI led to enactment of a 1974 law protecting privacy rights to prevent such abuse.

Republicans have pointed out that this is not the first time Clinton aides have misused the FBI.

The first incident occurred in 1993, the so-called Travelgate affair involving the firing of seven employees in the White House Travel Office, led to the discovery of the Filegate scandal.

The White House was accused of getting rid of those employees to give the job of managing travel services for the White House Press Corps to Mr. Clinton's political friends.

In an apparent aim to justify the firings after the fact, a close Clinton aide had asked the FBI to say it had opened a criminal investigation against the employees. It was later found to be untrue.

Burma reports another NLD defection

RANGOON (AFP) — Burma's state-run press Monday reported a fresh defection from the opposition National League for Democracy (NLD), one of a series of resignations dismissed by Aung San Suu Kyi as "not binding."

Myo Myint, NLD candidate in the 1990 abortive general elections from Myitha township in Mandalay, resigned Sunday citing disenchantment with politics, press reports said.

His withdrawal from politics was one of at least a dozen NLD resignations since Burma's military rulers detained more than 260 NLD supporters ahead of a party congress last month.

Myo Myint decided to quit "of his own volition," the press quoted an Election Commission announcement as saying. Similar announcements were made for other NLD men.

In a public appearance Sunday, Ms. Suu Kyi said the party had anticipated that NLD candidates would be pressured to resign while in detention.

"We also said any documents signed by our members under pressure are not binding according to law," she added.

Elected candidates should be deemed to be carrying out their duties until the people who voted for them "decide otherwise," she told a crowd of at least 4,000 people outside the gate to her residential compound.

"They can never give up their responsibilities to the people no matter what anybody says about their so-called resignations," the NLD leader held.

She also dismissed suggestions that the 1990 candidates' terms of office had expired, saying this could not happen until after a term specified by the first parliament, which has not met.

inger banned
er remark about
Mahathir

LA LUMPUR (AP) — Malaysia's central government has banned a singer after he made a disparaging remark about Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, said Monday. The singer, who was performing at a concert, was told to stop singing and was escorted away from the stage. The singer, who was performing at a concert, was told to stop singing and was escorted away from the stage.



Mount Ruapehu sends up plumes of ash and rock Monday as the active volcano erupted after months of silence forcing aviation authorities to declare a danger zone (Reuter photo)

New Zealand volcano puts on spectacular display

AUCKLAND (R) — New Zealand's Mount Ruapehu belched steam and ash several kilometres high Monday in a major eruption, but officials said the volcano's latest outburst did not present any hazard to people.

The eruption, the biggest since last October, closed roads, ski slopes and forced aviation authorities to declare a danger zone surrounding the mountain.

Officials said the eruption lacked the ferocity of last October's eruption.

Airports are shut down, ash is on the roads, people's water supplies might have to be disconnected, but it's not life-threatening, Peter Wood, scientist at the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, told Radio New Zealand.

Scientists upgraded the alert status of the volcano to level three, meaning "significant local eruption in progress." At the height of last year's eruption, Ruapehu was classified at level four or "hazardous local eruption".

The highest alert is level five, signifying a hazardous local eruption is in progress.

Airlines suspended flights to and from the popular North Island tourist resort of Rotorua, where the touring Scottish Rugby Union side called off a practice session because ash was irritating players' eyes.

Falling ash closed several airports, the furthest being Whakatane, some 185 kilometres to the north. The Civil Aviation Authority imposed a danger zone prohibiting flying in darkness around Ruapehu.

Residents of the town of Turangi had been told to stay indoors, and to wear masks or damp cloths over their faces to avoid inhaling ash if venturing outside.

Television pictures showed dense black clouds over the mountain, which last burst into life in September and October last year.

Locals were concerned about the impact on ski slope operators. Staff were evacuated from the Turoa and Whakapapa ski fields and some local roads were closed.

Volcanic tremors began early Monday morning, accompanied by numerous small earthquakes.

Scientists who flew around the volcano saw ash erupting from three vents, rising to form a five kilometre plume near the volcano, and higher still as the plume was blown downwind to the north.

"It is throwing up the most amazing clouds tinged with red, yellow and orange from the sunrise," Assistant Manager Kerryanne McKinlay of the Grand Chateau Hotel, which lies at the foot of the mountain, told the New Zealand Press Association.

Analysed man
es doctor for
oping him alive

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A doctor for keeping a man alive for 17 years after he was declared dead, a judge ruled Monday.

The judge said the doctor, Dr. Lawrence Lewis, had kept the man, a brain-dead patient, alive for 17 years after he was declared dead.

The judge said the doctor, Dr. Lawrence Lewis, had kept the man, a brain-dead patient, alive for 17 years after he was declared dead.

Indian cyclone abates after killing over 120

HYDERABAD, India (R) — A tropical cyclone which killed more than 120 people in southern India and caused millions of dollars in damage has petered out, authorities said Monday.

"It is no longer a cyclone," Meteorological Department official R.R. Kelkar said. "It is now more a rain-generating system, with no damage potential like a cyclone."

The storm which struck the southeastern coast Sunday from the Bay of Bengal was moving northward into Madhya Pradesh and Orissa states, bringing heavy rain but little wind, authorities said.

The dead were spread across three states — Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka — and more than 190 people, mostly fishermen, were reported missing.

Andhra Pradesh, which is some 1,500 kilometres from the Indian capital New Delhi, bore the brunt of the cyclone, called Tropical Cyclone 03B that packed winds of 70 kph (45 mph) when it hit the coast Sunday.

Some 65 people were killed in the southeastern state, most by flash floods.

The state government said preliminary estimates put damage at up to one billion rupees (\$30 million).

State Relief Commissioner Hari Shankar Brahma said there was some damage to plantation crops such as bananas, coconuts and mangoes, but no estimate was yet available.

"The rain stopped yesterday," Mr. Brahma told Reuters in the Andhra Pradesh capital Hyderabad. "Life is getting back to normal."

Three people died Sunday when a packed boat in which they were travelling capsized in a flooded river in Andhra Pradesh, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported. Earlier the news agency had said at least 50 were feared drowned.

During the three-day downpour which the cyclone brought, as much as 120 cm of rain fell in Andhra Pradesh, including 40 cm in four hours in Madanapalle town in Chittoor district where 29 people died, mostly by flash floods.

Parts of Madanapalle were still under six metres of water Monday, authorities said. Emergency workers opened two relief camps for 1,500 displaced citizens of Madanapalle.

"The town presented a pathetic scene," Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu said after visiting the site.

The state government offered 100,000 rupees (\$3,000) to the families of victims and 1,000 rupees (\$30) to families whose houses were destroyed.

The coast of Andhra Pradesh is particularly prone to cyclones. About 10,000 people were killed in 1977 when tidal waves swept 12 kilometres inland. In 1990, nearly 1,000 were killed when a cyclone with winds of up to 250 kph struck the coast.

Authorities said the latest cyclone generated lower winds, and a disaster plan had been put into place to evacuate more than 3,000 residents of threatened areas to shelters.

Fog, rain hamper search for seamen off S. Korea

SEOUL (R) — Thick fog and rain hampered rescuers searching Monday for 26 crew members missing and presumed dead after their cargo vessel sank off South Korea, and hopes of finding survivors or bodies are fading.

The hunt resumed at first light for the seamen from the 14,900-ton Cyprus-registered Anna Spiratos which capsized and sank Saturday night after colliding with the 14,312-ton greek-registered Polydefkis P.

"We have found nothing since we started our search at 7.00 a.m. (2200 GMT). It's raining here now and very foggy. We can't see very well," said a Maritime Police officer, speaking from the southern port city of Pusan.

"We're worried about the weather. It is very unlikely any of them would still be alive."

The maritime official added fog was so thick that helicopters could not be used in the search. The South Korean Meteorological Agency Monday forecast similar weather Tuesday, dimming any hopes of finding anyone alive.

Albania ruling Democrats confirm poll win in re-run

TIRANA (R) — Albania's ruling Democrats have scored a sweeping victory in a partial rerun of a disputed general election, vote officials said Monday.

Results from Sunday's high-turnout ballot confirmed their landslide win in the ex-Communist state's third multi-party polls.

Most opposition parties, including the key Socialists, again abstained from the voting, called after a first round plagued by accusations of irregularities and criticised by the West.

They demand a fresh election for most of the Balkan country's 115 parliamentary seats.

President Sali Berisha, whose conservative Democratic Party won a huge victory in the initial two-round poll, agreed to the partial re-run after widespread international criticism and allegations the ballot was manipulated.

The Central Election Committee (CEC), which organised the vote, said 68 per cent of eligible voters cast their ballots Sunday.

"From the preliminary data we have from Sunday's vote it appears the ruling Democratic Party has won," CEC Chairman Edmir Kapidani told a news conference.

The preliminary results indicate Mr. Berisha's Democrats have clinched victory in the 17 constituencies where the election was re-run.

The government agreed to repeat the vote in constituencies where it had noted most irregularities to quell opposition claims the elections were fraudulent and to satisfy Western appeals for a partial re-run.

The Democratic Party won 101 out of 140 parliamentary seats in two rounds of voting on May 26 and June 2.

Some 115 seats were determined by direct voting in the constituencies. The Democrats are poised to secure another batch of seats when the remaining 25 are allocated proportionally according to party lists.

Most opposition parties, including the key Socialists, boycotted Sunday's ballot, saying only a fresh election in most of the Balkan country's 115 constituencies could reverse what they claim was massive vote manipulation by the ruling party.

Western governments, including the United States, called for a partial re-run of the controversial poll, but it was not immediately clear whether they would be content with Sunday's limited repetition.

The Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) issued a final report last week saying the elections had failed to meet Albania's own legal standards, but stopped short of calling for a new poll.

But OSCE member states are due to meet in Vienna this week to discuss the report and what may be harder-hitting recommendations, a source close to the group told Reuters.

Opposition parties refuse to accept the outcome of the vote or take up the five seats they won.

They have staged protest rallies, a hunger strike and travelled to the European Parliament in hopes of forcing a fresh election, but their efforts have been fruitless. Calls on voters to boycott Sunday's re-run went largely unnoticed.

"About 68 per cent of the people voted in the (17) constituencies, with the highest turn-out of 83 per cent in the southern town of Peqin and the lowest turn-out of 40 per cent in the southern city of Saranda," the CEC's Kapidani said.

About 350,000 Albanians were eligible to cast their ballot in 600 polling stations across the mountainous country. Mr. Kapidani said only 18 per cent of citizens who participated in the initial election stayed away on Sunday.

But voters had a limited spectrum of parties to choose from. Only the Democrats and a group of small right-wing parties, the centrist Social Democratic Union Party and the ethnic Greek Union for Human Rights Party took part in the repeat poll.

Garuda pilot refuses to see Japan investigators

TOKYO (R) — The captain of the Garuda Indonesia DC-10 that crashed on takeoff at southern Japan's fukuoka Airport refused to meet investigators Monday, Japanese officials said.

Investigators from Japan's Transport Ministry visited Captain Ronald Longdong in hospital for questioning over last Thursday's accident in which three passengers died and 110 were injured.

"You don't have any appointment," a ministry official quoted the 38-year-old Indonesian pilot as telling the investigators.

The captain has been in hospital with internal injuries. Representatives of the airline in Tokyo were not immediately available for comment.

The Garuda Indonesia Airliner, carrying 260 passengers and 15 crew, had lifted a few metres into the air on takeoff when it flopped back to earth and skidded off the runway with the passenger cabin ablaze.

Passengers jumped from the cabin as the flames spread. Ministry sources said investigators found the pilot had applied reverse thrust to all three engines — one under each wing and one in the tail — in trying to halt the aircraft.

Several passengers and crew have told investigators that there appeared to be an odd engine sound when the plane started its takeoff run.

The sources said the pilot also seemed to be aware at least of the odd sound, and decided to abort the takeoff.

Investigators said the DC-10 had enough power to safely lift off if just one engine was out, and they wanted to question the pilot about why he chose to abort the takeoff.

They said one Garuda flight attendant had told them that the starboard engine caught fire just after takeoff.

The DC-10 is powered by three engines, one on each wing and the third on the rear fin.

Passengers said they fled flames engulfing the fuselage in a near-panic and some accused flight attendants of not guiding them safely out through emergency chutes.

Garuda Indonesia's President Soepandi vowed Friday to increase the number of Japanese-speaking flight attendants.

There had been criticism from some survivors that language problems had caused confusion during the evacuation.

Human error blamed in Japan shootdown of U.S. plane

TOKYO (R) — The crew of a Japanese destroyer, which shot down a U.S. warplane during naval exercises earlier this month, may have committed a string of basic errors, media reports said Monday.

Navy investigators found that the chief gunnery officer and others on the 4,300-tonne guided-missile destroyer Yugiri failed to confirm that the intruder, a U.S. Navy attack aircraft, was out of range before the ship's opened fire, the daily Tokyo Shimbun and Kyodo News Agency said.

The intruder was towing the target drone aircraft using a five-kilometre cable.

Rounds from the anti-missile gun hit the plane's right wing during manoeuvres of the six-nation RIMPAC exercises held in the mid-Pacific on June 4.

The plane's two crew members ejected from their damaged aircraft and were later rescued without injury.

The reports said the Japanese navy will soon announce results of the investigation and reprimand those involved in the accident.

A Defence Ministry spokesman said the investigation was still continuing and made no further comment.

The weapon, a rapid-firing 20mm gun called Vulcan Phalanx, was to be aimed at a target towed by the two-seat intruder. The gun automatically traces and fires at an airborne target after the firing switch is activated. It is a warship's last line of defence against an incoming missile.

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Countdown starts for longest shuttle mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (R) — Countdown clocks began ticking Monday for this week's launch of space shuttle Columbia on what may be the longest shuttle flight ever.

Columbia, NASA's oldest shuttle, is due to blast-off from its Atlantic-coast launch pad at Florida's Kennedy Space Centre Thursday during a two-and-a-half-hour launch window that opens at 10:49 a.m. edt (1449 GMT).

The mission is scheduled to last almost 17 days, if Columbia's on board power reserves last as expected, for the longest flight of the 15-year shuttle programme.

Columbia's crew of seven were due to arrive at the launch site Monday afternoon to begin final preparations.

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No going backwards

BOTH JORDAN and Egypt are trying hard to put next week's Arab summit in Cairo in proper perspective as a meeting that aims first and foremost to breathe new life into the peace process. His Majesty King Hussein talks with U.S. President Bill Clinton in Washington last week also aimed to allay fears about Arab intentions in the wake of the election of Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu as the new Israeli prime minister. The King and the president both emerged from their talks with a meeting of minds on what should be done next to keep the peace process in the region on track. Egypt appears also of the same mind. Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa said in a recent interview that there is "not panic, but rather concern," about the newly elected Israeli prime minister. Mr. Musa went on to add that "nobody intends to freeze relations with Israel. None of us want to revert to the situation of confrontation. Nobody wants to bring back tension into the region." At the same time the Egyptian foreign minister conceded that what disturbed the Arab side was the declared position of Mr. Netanyahu on the future of East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights and the final status of the Palestinian territories. "All this does not sound encouraging," he concluded. Against this backdrop, both Cairo and Amman aim at reassuring not only Israel but the entire international community that the Arab option is one for permanent peace. Several Arab capitals have described this commitment to regional peace as a strategic choice. If there is a lingering concern about where Mr. Netanyahu really stands on the remaining thorny issues affecting the peace process it must be viewed as part and parcel of the overall Arab concern about and yearning for peace. Arab interest in the continuation of the peace process is what drives them to seek assignments from the Israeli side about the unfinished business of peacemaking.

Convening an Arab summit per se does not signal an Arab departure from the commitment to just and durable peace in the area. Forging a united Arab front will lend support to the search for peace and not the other way round.

Reports that Mr. Netanyahu had assured Arab capitals that despite all the rhetoric, he, as Israel's first directly elected prime minister, will soon resume talks on both the Palestinian and Golan track are most promising. After all Mr. Netanyahu was elected on a platform of "security and peace," and he is expected to fulfil both promises of securing his people and pursuing peace with his neighbours. A statement of commitment to peace from the Arab leaders meeting next week will certainly strengthen the position of the prime minister's hand against his radical colleagues.

ARAB PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER FOR Al Ra'i daily cast a very gloomy picture of the Cairo economic summit due in four months' time, saying that businessmen seem to have lost all interest in it due to the lack of peace. Israel still occupies the West Bank and Gaza, the Syrian and Lebanese sides are now taking an adamant stand towards the summit, something which creates a very negative atmosphere for the business community, said Fahd Al Fanek. The writer said that the summit, which hosted an earlier economic summit in 1994, which will host the coming event, are not showing any real interest in the Cairo meeting, while businessmen are keeping away and not venturing into the summit, which is considered an American sphere of influence, said the writer. As to the United States, the writer said that it is not one of its priorities, except where its security is concerned, but since Israel has initiated direct contacts with the Arab countries, the United States is no more willing to give backing to a summit. The writer said that the summit, which was held last year, had been considered a total failure in the Arab world, he said, the essential elements for it and the economic summit do not exist.

A WRITER FOR Al Ra'i daily said Monday that the convening of an Arab summit in Cairo on June 21 should be seen as a step towards ending the deterioration in the Arab affairs and could serve as a move towards a collective Arab action to stem Israel's aggression. Tayeb Zuhri said for the pessimists, the coming summit is not bound to bring any improvement in position, but optimists see otherwise and look to the meeting as a means of rallying Arab countries' efforts towards the attainment of common goals. For its part, Syria hopes that the summit will rally the Arab states' support for its stand against Israel's declared intention of perpetuating its occupation of the Syrian heights: for the Egyptians, the summit helps reaffirm Cairo's leading position in the Arab World while for the Palestinians, the summit will rally the Arab states behind their drive to ensure Israel's implementation of the Oslo agreements, according to the writer. Jordan, which welcomed the coming meeting, is officially unperturbed because it believes that Benjamin Netanyahu is committed to the peace process with Jordan and there is no room for pessimism. Therefore, he said, there is all the chance for the success of the Cairo meeting which brings most of the Arab leaders together for the first time in six years.

America must learn to respect Asia's way of doing things

By Bryce Harland

SINGAPORE — Without a common threat to keep them working together, the United States may be heading towards a major collision with China and other Asian countries.

No longer needing friends and allies as it did during the cold war, America is using its economic power to force them to open their markets to its exports and to move towards Western democracy.

U.S. pressure is making Asian nations more aware of what they have in common and helping to overcome the divisions that have kept them dependent on outside powers.

Collision is not inevitable. The United States has played a critical role in the transformation of East Asia from one of the poorest and most turbulent parts of the world into the most rapidly growing and one of the more peaceful.

The change has been brought about by Asian peoples themselves, largely by exercising the self-discipline that is part of their inherited cultures and by saving more than most others.

But progress could not have occurred so quickly without the ideas, money and markets, as well as the security, provided by the United States. For that, America deserves more credit than it usually gets.

However, the corollary of East Asia's export-led growth is dependence on the United States and vulnerability to any change in its trade policies.

Trade between Asian countries is growing fast and so is investment, while America's share is declining. But the United States still takes about a quarter of East Asia's total exports. Any sudden or substantial reduction in their access to the American market would have a disproportionate effect on their economies.

East Asia has the fastest growing market in the world. American businessmen, like those in Europe and the Pacific, realise that they cannot afford to abandon it to their competitors. Just as Asia needs the United States, the United States and other Western countries now need Asia. The balance of economic power is moving steadily in Asia's favour.

For the time being, the American market is still essential for East Asia, especially China, which has the region's second largest economy after Japan.

The end of the cold war has had a profound effect on the relationship. The unexpected collapse of the Soviet Union freed the United States to pursue its own interests more vigorously — especially in reducing its trade deficits and promoting human rights.

President Bill Clinton linked those two questions by threatening to withdraw from China the most-favoured-nation status it had been given soon after the normalisation of relations, unless it met certain conditions relating to trade and human rights. But Americans doing business with China (importers as

well as exporters) were aroused by the prospect of a sharp reduction in trade between the two countries.

Intensive lobbying by business groups persuaded both the administration and Congress to break the linkage. However, the question is far from dead. It will emerge again in the next few weeks when Congress reconsiders the issue.

The recent crisis over Taiwan has revived concerns in America and elsewhere that China is expansionist and aggressive. It is not always remembered that the crisis arose out of Washington's decision to allow the president of Taiwan, which China has long regarded as a rebel province, to visit the United States.

Beijing saw this as a breach of the understanding on which its relations with Washington had been based ever since Richard Nixon's visit in 1972.

Americans saw only that Taiwan was holding its first democratic election for the presidency while the leadership in Beijing was resisting change in China's authoritarian political system. Behind that was the belief that China was on the way to becoming one of the biggest economies in the world, even though its per capita income was still low.

Recurrent crises over trade and human rights between Washington and Beijing have affected public attitudes on both sides, fanned nationalism and injected suspicion and hostility into relationships formerly characterised mainly by goodwill and mutual

benefit. The leaders of other East Asia countries are well aware of the uncertainties about China's future: they are quite vigilant. But they remember that a weak and divided China can be more dangerous than a strong and united one.

For the time being, they see their giant neighbour as more an opportunity than a threat.

They want the United States to keep a strong military presence in the Western Pacific to balance China's growing power and maintain the stability that is essential for continuing economic growth. The last thing they want is to have to choose between America and China.

Any attempt to revive the cold war policy of containment would only jeopardise their new-found prosperity. The current U.S. policy of engaging China is much more congenial to Asian leaders. They welcome China's participation in the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, and in the ASEAN Regional Forum on security, even though the benefits are so far limited.

They find it hard to understand why Washington demands a high price for China's admission to the World Trade Organisation, which would do more than anything else to involve China in the international community and head off any tendency to revert to Mao's policy of revolutionary isolation.

America has done a great deal for East Asia. It has helped to bring about the

transformation of the region. It has also imparted some of its own values. Materialism is now almost universal in East Asia, and there is widespread demand for democracy, especially from the emerging middle class.

But even in Japan, where the postwar occupation gave the Americans an unrivalled opportunity, they have not succeeded in remaking an Asian people in their own image.

Globalisation is becoming an economic reality, but it is still far from obliterating Asian cultures. On the contrary, American pressures are making Asians more conscious of what they have in common; they are resisting Western individualism and asserting the validity of "Asian" values.

Their high rates of saving, which provide objective evidence of the difference between Asian and Western cultures, facilitate high levels of investment and steadily increase their strength.

Any further attempt to remake Asian countries on Western lines is not likely to succeed. It would carry the risk of bringing about another in the long series of conflicts between Asia and the West.

If Asians found that their access to the American market was being restricted, and their exports to it were falling, they might be forced to look again at the possibility of closer regional cooperation of a more defensive and less open kind than APEC.

And it might be easier for them to do so if the cuts

were made in the name of human rights or democracy — subjects on which Asians have views that are quite different from those prevailing in the West.

APEC offers an opportunity for the United States and other Western countries to benefit from the fast growth of East Asia and achieve the ideal set by President Clinton in 1993 of an Asia-Pacific region that is united, not divided. But to reach that goal, Westerners need to accept the equality of Asians, and their right to do things their own way.

To go on living in peace and sharing the benefits of fast economic growth, the peoples on both sides of the Pacific must accept their differences and learn from one another.

Ever since the Portuguese sailed into Asian waters 500 years ago, Westerners have been accustomed to telling Asians what to do. That period has now come to an end. Asian countries are becoming strong enough to assert their autonomy and maintain it.

They will develop in their own ways, at their own speeds. Any attempt from the outside to force the pace is likely to be counterproductive, and even dangerous.

The writer, a former New Zealand diplomat, is author of "Collision Course: America and East Asia, in the Past and the Future." This article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Even with the best of will, Bosnians need time

By Thomas L. Friedman

SARAJEVO — When you go to apply for your NATO press pass in Zagreb, the first thing you notice is that it comes with one line already filled in. The expiration date is "December 20, 1996." That is the date President Bill Clinton has set for the withdrawal of U.S. troops from Bosnia.

The question I have been posing to a range of people from Zagreb to Sarajevo is: What do you think Bosnia will look like on the day NATO press passes expire? The most common answer is: "Anything can still happen" — from a return to fighting to a hard partition to an uneasy coexistence.

In other words, with seven months to go before the scheduled end of the NATO mission, there is still no clear-cut trend in Bosnia. On any given day, in any given village, you can see both the forces of unification and the forces of partition busy at work.

Although the forces of partition unquestionably have the upper hand, they are not yet decisive. "It's like a bad marriage," one

U.S. official said of the current state of affairs between Serbs, Croats and Muslims. As in any bad marriage, he added, the couple "could stay" together indefinitely "for the sake of the kids" in a loveless arrangement, or they could get a divorce.

Slobodan Lang, a doctor and Croatia's leading human rights activist, described to me a car trip he just took across Croatia and Bosnia, beginning in the Croatian village of Erdut on the Danube. There he found a meeting of Serbs and Croats, discussing an amnesty for Croatian Serb refugees who want to return to their homes in the area.

Just a few miles after that he came upon an intersection in Bosnia where Serbian, Croatian and Muslim taxi drivers all gather each day in one taxi station to ferry passengers to either Serbian-held Brcko, Muslim-held Tuzla or Croatian-held Sava.

Still further along, in Croatian-held Brcko Ravno, he met a Croatian surgeon who had performed 8,700 operations during the war, saving Serbs, Croats and Muslims alike.

Continuing down to Tuzla, he found the Muslim mayor organising a business fair at which Serbian, Muslim and Croatian businessmen were paying 200 German marks apiece to set up showrooms. But along the way he passed a cemetery where Muslims had broken all the crosses over Croatian graves.

In Sarajevo, he visited with angry Muslim refugees, who had managed to survive the Serbian massacre in Srebrenica and were now occupying the abandoned homes of Sarajevo Serbs, who had fled to the Serb Republic, where they are now living in squalor.

He passed by Mostar, a city divided between Croats and Muslims that is supposed to be reunited but is instead being partitioned, largely because Croats refuse to share control of the city with their Muslim neighbours. Mostar's division is also being reinforced by Croatian criminal gangs that don't want to see Mostar reunited because it would be bad for their protection rackets.

Dr. Lang ended up in Selce, where a Muslim-Croat conference was being held on how to help those left handicapped by the war.

That is Bosnia today. The only thing that is clear is that while NATO press passes will expire on Dec. 20, the Bosnian conflict will not.

There is still too much rage loose in this land. There are still too many people not living in their homes (1.7 million out of a population of 4 million). There are still too many killers walking free. And, most of all, too many of the leaders responsible for wrecking Bosnia are still around posing as architects of its new dawn.

No, there will have to be an ongoing NATO peace-keeping presence here after Dec. 20, and it will have to include some U.S. forces to have credibility.

As long as NATO does not become a target, its remaining here with a smaller force for a longer period is worth it. It is a small price to pay to prevent more mass killing and to ensure stability in southern Europe.

Anyway, you need a longer ceasefire and period of reconstruction to really tell whether a stable new order here is possible.

"You Americans are like a doctor who wants to help a woman have a baby, but tells her that her pregnancy can only last three months," said Dr. Lang. "Well, you can't make a baby in three months. You must have more respect for the suffering and the pain and the prejudice that went on here."

It is not something that goes away in a year. That is why everyone is simultaneously rebuilding and rearming, he added. "If your house was burned, if you were taken away to a concentration camp by your neighbours, and then NATO says, 'We'll help you for a while, but we're leaving by Dec. 20,' you would be a fool not to be preparing for the next round."

The New York Times

LETTERS

Monopoly no solution to inefficiency

To the Editor:

While a thorough apology for the disruption of its services on Sunday, 16 June, was published by the Jordan Mobile Telephone Services (Fastlink) in the Jordan Times on June 17, the company may want to consider a hearty apology for the following:

1. Fastlink services in general have not proved to be an adequate solution to our telecommunications problems. Subscribers to the service will often find that they cannot get a connection, particularly in certain geographic areas, even within the city.

It is my understanding that the feasibility study to offer the service in Jordan assessed that Fastlink could have 6,000 subscribers by the end of this year. However, there are, to date, 17,000.

With almost three times the number of expected subscribers, it is no wonder that we suffer from interruption of services as it is doubtful that the system has the capacity to support such a demand for service.

2. Cost of the service, compared to other countries, is one of the highest.

3. To compound problems even more, nearly 3,000 lines were disconnected on June 15 because of unpaid bills dated June 3. However, my own bill only appeared in the mailbox on June 15. I cannot describe my frustration when trying to pay the bill at the sight of two cashiers attending to the about 100 people patiently waiting to pay. The least Fastlink could do under the circumstances was to have provided more cashiers to facilitate payment.

Perhaps Fastlink would have been more apt at providing a better service had it not been granted a monopoly of the sector which we aspire to "privatise".

If these are the benefits of "privatisation", brought to us via a monopoly, maybe we should give further consideration to such a prospect before we proceed with the to other sectors of the economy.

Mohammad Atiyeh,
PO Box 620673,
Amman

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.



NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraqi minister meets Algerian leaders

PARIS (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammed Saeed Al Sahaf, on a north African tour to boost cooperation, met Algerian Prime Minister Ahmed Ouyahia on Monday, the official Algerian news agency APS said. Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attaf attended the meeting. APS said. It gave no further details. Iraq is seeking to boost trade exchanges with north African states after it signed an oil-for-food deal with the United Nations. Mr. Sahaf held talks with Algeria's ministers of trade and energy and other officials after arriving on Saturday with a letter from President Saddam Hussein for Algerian President Liamine Zeroual. He has already been to Libya and Tunisia.

Turkey: Incursions into Iraq are over

ANKARA (R) — Turkey said on Monday its troops had withdrawn from northern Iraq after making limited incursions against Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) guerrillas there. "As far as I know the last operation's already over and the Turkish troops are already withdrawn from the border areas," Foreign Ministry spokesman Nurettin Norkan told a news briefing. Turkish security officials said fighting with the PKK had spilled several kilometres across the mountainous border last week. Turkey says 163 rebels and only eight soldiers died in clashes in the border area.

S. Lankan embassy investigates maid injuries

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Sri Lankan Embassy said here on Monday it was investigating the claims of a Sri Lankan maid, hospitalised in serious condition, who says she was beaten and stabbed by her employer. "Yesterday (Sunday) in the morning somebody from the hospital telephoned here and said the girl was with them," Dhammika Moonemalle, secretary for labour welfare at the Sri Lankan embassy in Kuwait, told AFP. A representative was sent to see the maid who found her with "a partly shaved head, scars all over her body and her legs were swollen," Ms. Moonemalle said, adding that the scars included knife wounds. The maid claimed the employer mistreated her.

First aid flight lands in Gaza

GAZA CITY (AFP) — A Moroccan military transport plane flew 14 tonnes of medical and food supplies into the Gaza Strip on Monday, becoming the first aid flight to land at the Palestinian new airport. The Hercules aircraft, carrying the supplies as a gift from Morocco's King Hassan II, was met by Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu Midein and other senior officials of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA). Palestinian President Yasser Arafat was on an official visit to China. A Moroccan delegation led by Ahmed Al-Bayaz, general director of the civil aviation authority, arrived aboard the plane. Israel and Arafat's PNA have yet to finalise an agreement on opening the airport at Rafah, in the southern Gaza Strip, and construction of the terminal and other buildings is still underway.

Palestinians assail Likud policy

(Continued from page 1)

Salameh, a member of the elected Palestinian legislative council who lives in Balata refugee camp near the West Bank city of Nablus.

But given the lack of alternatives for the PNA and Mr. Netanyahu's effort to show peaceful intentions, analysts say it is likely there will nevertheless be an attempt during coming weeks by both sides to establish a working relationship.

Bishara Daoud, a council deputy from Bethlehem in the West Bank, predicted the government's approach would "encourage fanaticism."

"I think the international community must interfere to save the peace process," he said, calling on foreign governments to pressure Mr. Netanyahu and his Likud Party to soften their stance when negotiations on a permanent peace settlement resume in coming weeks.

Those negotiations, outlined in the Oslo agreement, cover refugee issues, the fate of disputed Jerusalem and Jewish settlements.

The government guidelines say negotiations towards a "permanent arrangement" with the PNA will continue provided the Palestinians "fulfill all their commitments fully."

They call for broadening peace relations with Israel's Arab neighbours and urge strengthening Jewish settlement in Israel, a formulation that received added punch Monday when hardliner Ariel Sharon reportedly agreed to accept the key post of housing minister. "Whoever said wait and see the programme of the new government, we have now done so," said Mr. Asfour. "This programme is completely threatening to the security and stability and peace in the region and the first people who will be damaged will be the Israeli state," Mr. Asfour said.

"We say to them return back to the (Oslo) agreement and read it well, the time has come to understand the agreement that was signed," he said. "They are still working outside of this framework."

The programme, which is expected to be presented along with the new government in

the opening session of parliament, reads as follows:

— "The government wants to enlarge the circle of peace with its neighbours while assuring the security of the states and its inhabitants."

— "The government will negotiate with the Palestinian (National) Authority with the goal of reaching a final accord, on the condition that the Palestinians scrupulously respect their commitments."

— "The government will present to the Palestinians an arrangement permitting them to live freely within the framework of an autonomy regime."

— "The government opposes the creation of an independent Palestinian state or any foreign sovereign entity west of the Jordan River."

— "All political accords must guarantee the continuation and reinforcement of Jewish settlements (in the West Bank) and guarantee their ties with the state of Israel."

— "The government considers the settling of the Golan Heights, the Jordan Valley, the West Bank and the Gaza Strip a goal of national importance."

— "The government reserves the right to use in all instances the army and other security forces to against terrorism, as required."

— "The government considers the Golan Heights to be a vital region for Israel's security and the preservation of its water resources."

— "Any accords with Syria should be based on the maintaining of Israeli sovereignty on the Golan."

— "The government will act to eliminate the threats hanging over the population of northern Israel."

— "The government will work so that Jerusalem remains the unified and indivisible capital of Israel, and will prevent any activity that threatens this principle."

— "The government is committed to preserving the status quo in religious matters, and will examine measures to take to rectify violations of this status quo."

— "The government will modify the law on conversions so that only those who are approved by the grand rabbi will be accepted in Israel."

Saudi diplomat: Iraq is main obstacle to Arab reconciliation

CAIRO (AFP) — Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to Egypt Fuad Mufri said Monday that Iraq remained the main hurdle to healing the rift between Arab countries.

"Much has been done in the past years along the path to Arab reconciliation but the problems with Iraq remain the main obstacle," Mr. Mufri told journalists.

"It's an issue which will be resolved in the future once all the factors have been reunited to guarantee security and stability (in the

Gulf) in line with international conventions and the charter of the Arab League," he added.

Iraq is the only member of the Arab League not to have been invited to a historic Arab summit to be held June 22-23 in Cairo — the first such meeting since shortly after Baghdad's invasion of Kuwait in August 1990.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Iraq was being excluded because of continuing "sensitivities" over the invasion, which

drove a wedge between the Arab states.

"The peace process to which Arab countries have responsibly committed themselves, is currently undergoing a crisis. That is why this summit must study these developments to keep up the impetus," Mr. Mufri said.

The summit has been convened amid Arab fears for the prospects for Middle East peace, after the victory of right-wing leader Benjamin Netanyahu in Israeli elections.

Netanyahu can negotiate with Assad, Ross asserts

CAIRO (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu can negotiate with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, U.S. Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross told the Arabic weekly Al Wasat Monday.

Mr. Ross said in an interview that Syria had to be the main focus of the peace process, adding that Likud leader Netanyahu could easily deal with the Syrian leader.

Asked if it would be easier for Mr. Netanyahu to envisage a withdrawal from the strategic Golan Heights than it had been for incumbent Prime Minister Shimon Peres, the State Department official said he could not tell.

But he added that Mr. Netanyahu had a better chance of winning the support of the Israeli people on the issue, if he chose to, than his predecessor had been able to do.

Mr. Netanyahu has ruled out discussing a return to Syria of the Golan, occupied by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war and "annexed" in 1981, while Damascus insists the return of the plateau is the key to any peace deal with the Jewish state.

He has also pledged to increase Jewish settlements in the West Bank, a move

which Mr. Ross said would be in violation of U.N. Security Council resolution 242 and the Israeli-Palestinian accords.

The U.S. official also insisted the United States had to be the main broker of peace in the Middle East, ruling out a role for France or the European Union.

He said the existence of more than one mediator would cause friction, and that the U.S. had to remain the intermediary between Syria and Israel as the Jewish state did not trust any other party to carry out the task.

Damascus Radio said Monday the policy programmes of Mr. Netanyahu amounts to "a declaration of war" on the Arab-Israeli peace process.

"Netanyahu has made clear his intention to keep the Golan, Jerusalem and South Lebanon, and maintain Hebron under Israeli control. These proposals are a declaration of war against the American peace initiative, international efforts and the peace process," said the radio.

"It is only natural that Arabs are shocked by such proposals and it is only right for their leaders to meet to take stock and to remind the international community of its responsibilities," it added.

Bread prices

(Continued from page 1)

Dr. Keilani pointed out that "around 1.5 million people between tourists and foreign residents pass through Jordan every year, and they, together with wealthy Jordanians, are the ones which should be targeted by the government's new price policies."

Neither the NSCP or the Ministry of Supply, however, would specify how the different categories of wealthy Jordanians, tourists, foreign residents and poor Jordanians, could be identified.

"We are waiting for the government's decision, before taking any action," said Dr. Keilani, whose society has been very active in the past and launched a national boycott against coffee when, in last December, coffee prices almost doubled.

NSCP President Mohammed Obeidat told the Jordan Times he expects a decision by the committee which is studying the lifting of subsidies on bread to be taken within the next two weeks.

Flour, powder milk, sugar and rice are currently subsidised by the government.

The Ministry of Supply issues special coupons which are distributed to all Jordanians living on a monthly salary of less than JD 500.

Crown Prince holds talks in Ottawa

(Continued from page 1)

the refugees' right to return or compensation. Jordan hosts about 40 per cent of the overall Palestinian refugee population and about two thirds of those outside the West Bank and Gaza.

In response to a question on Iraq, Prince Hassan reiterated the Kingdom's support for the territorial integrity of that country and expressed hope for "changes for the better."

The Crown Prince said that the policy of "dual containment" which is applied towards Iraq and Iran should not replace a comprehensive solution to the problem in that part of the region.

"We dread the balkanisation of Iraq," said Prince Hassan.

In response to a question on the situation in beleaguered Lebanon, Prince Hassan stressed the need for dialogue as the best means to arrive at a lasting solution and an end to the conflict there. But, he said, countries hosting terrorism should not use violence to achieve their goals, because that can affect the credibility of moderate states which work for the attainment of peace in the region.

Addressing a question on Russian election, the Crown Prince said that regardless of the outcome of the elections Jordan is concerned with a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Chechnya.

The Crown Prince said in a speech to a conference on Muslim-Christian non-governmental organisations earlier in the day that Canada can play a

major role in contributing to comprehensive peace in the region.

The Crown Prince also told the conference that despite the difficulties that the peace process faces, peace and stability were at last coming to the region regardless of the "day-to-day ups and downs. There is, in the final analysis, no alternative to peace in the Middle East. It is that simple. The road was never going to be easy, but all its winding paths lead to only one destination," the Crown Prince said in the keynote address to the conference.

"Anyone who has followed the vicissitudes of peace-making in our region over the years has seen hope buried and revived a hundred times," but the underlying reality remains that war and hatred cannot be the basis on which the future should be built," Prince Hassan told the conference, which is organised by the Canadian International Development Agency.

The Crown Prince said that Canada can help the region achieve peace, saying that it is essential that it continues to play the role of encouraging just and comprehensive peace-making as well as peace-building.

The Crown Prince said that peace in the Middle East will also depend on the degree of tolerance and understanding among peoples of the monotheistic religions, and reiterated the call for continued dialogue among followers of the three religions.

Prince Hassan stressed the tolerant nature of Islam and expressed concern by the spread of "Islamophobia," which is

based on a misconception of Islam and its values.

"Islam has been portrayed by some as a fanatical and intolerant creed. But faith in Islam is a matter of conscience and conscience cannot be compelled," Prince Hassan said.

The Crown Prince said that the scriptures of Islam have much to tell about the importance of tolerance and coexistence.

"Mutual respect between and within human communities is fundamental to the Muslim World's view," said the Crown Prince, who also stressed Islam's ability to accommodate diversity.

Prince Hassan, who is accompanied by Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath, Minister of Planning, Rima Khalaf, Telecommunication Minister Jamal Sarairoh and an official delegation on his visit, praised Jordanian-Canadian relations saying that both countries respect democracy, pluralism and human rights.

"Through all the turmoil of the 20th century, Jordan has never been governed by radical politics. It has charted a consistently moderate and centrist course," said the Crown Prince, who added that this policy has been enhanced by a democratisation process which operates under constitutional guarantees that allow the participation of political parties in the political life of the country.

The Crown Prince said NGOs can play an important role in the development process that should encompass efforts to address health, educational and other human aspects.

Russia

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Lebed's performance put him in a commanding position in the horse-trading over the votes that went to him and seven other eliminated candidates behind him.

But in the hurly-burly of unpredictable Russian poli-

tics, there is no certainty voters will heed an appeal by Mr. Lebed to support one or the other of the finalists.

Mr. Lebed told Russian television he was well aware that his support could be pivotal for the second round, saying: "Yes, I generally catch on quickly."

Mr. Yeltsin was slightly ahead in counting of ballots from Sunday's voting. But he and Mr. Zuyuganov each

got only about a third of the vote and both need the support of Mr. Lebed, who has soared on the Russian political scene in the past year.

With 98 per cent of the vote counted, 35 per cent of voters were backing Mr. Yeltsin, whose reforms have also spawned crime and corruption. Mr. Zuyuganov, had 32 per cent, the central election commission reported.

Iraq is seen unlikely to yield to U.N. demands

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq is unlikely to give in to pressure to change its stand on blocking inspection by U.N. weapons experts when senior U.N. official Rolf Ekeus visits Baghdad, diplomats and analysts said on Monday.

They said Iraq's government, frustrated by the seemingly endless search of its facilities, would dig in its heels unless the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) offered a timetable for the end of its disarmament activities in Iraq.

Baghdad, they said, would demand that UNSCOM, overseeing the scrapping of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire, introduce fresh "inspection procedures," compatible with its own national security guidelines.

Mr. Ekeus, the UNSCOM chairman, is due in Baghdad on Wednesday, but diplomats said his mission to defuse the crisis was not going to be easy.

A team of 53 U.N. arms experts under Russian inspector Nikita Smidovich left Baghdad on Sunday after futile attempts to gain access to five facilities in and around Baghdad which Iraq has declared vital to its national sovereignty.

Iraq turned down three U.N. Security Council demands during the five-day standoff to grant the inspectors immediate and unconditional access.

"Iraqis would like Ekeus to say how much more time he would need to finish his inspections so that they would know when they will

be able to export oil freely," said one diplomat.

"From the way I see the events I do not think Ekeus will be in a position to commit himself to any timing," he added.

The ruling Baath Party newspaper Al-Thawra demanded in a commentary on Monday that UNSCOM clearly say what else it needs Iraq to do and inform the security council of all the proscribed items it still suspects are in Iraq's possession.

"Iraq is very keen to put a decisive end to inspection activities by UNSCOM which both the Americans and the British want to turn into an endless story to prolong the embargo," Al-Thawra said.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz, in statements last week, reiterated that Baghdad had no intention of disrupting UNSCOM activities but cannot accept an "indefinite" mandate after five years of intensive inspections.

UNSCOM has said that Iraq has complied with most of its disarmament obligations under the Gulf war ceasefire terms. But also says what remains is of paramount significance and without it the commission cannot give Iraq a clean bill of health which could allow unrestricted Iraqi oil exports.

UNSCOM suspects Baghdad still hides 15 of its long-range missiles and documents concerning its past weapons programmes.

Baghdad insists it has nothing left to hide and accuses UNSCOM of helping delay the lifting of curbs on its oil exports, part of

comprehensive U.N. trade sanctions imposed for its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The row over inspection is not connected to Iraq's separate oil-for-food deal with the United Nations allowing for limited oil exports to enable it to buy humanitarian supplies.

A newspaper in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Monday called for an end to "humiliating" U.N. inspections of Iraq's suspected weapons sites.

"How much longer will Iraq be subject to these humiliating and harassing experiences from the U.N.?" the Gulf News, an English-language newspaper based in Dubai, said in an editorial.

"It is generally accepted that the belligerent attitude of the U.N. inspectors is fully supported by America and the U.K., and on most occasions, France," it added.

"However, there must surely be a time when a halt should be called to these constant pressures on Iraq," it said.

"The West has to accept that the Iraqi leader is Saddam Hussein. He was before the war, when the West was prepared to turn a blind eye to what was going on in that country," the daily said. "So, having failed, despite their worst, to depose Saddam, the West must now learn to live with him," it said.

It also said "Iraq could do more to comply with the U.N. resolutions by giving full disclosure to their arms and armaments" and speed the country's recovery.

King says results of U.S. visit positive

(Continued from page 1)

that Mr. Netanyahu had contacted "senior Jordanian officials" and "assured them that he, as the first elected prime minister of Israel, is not obliged to adopt the hardline positions of Likud leaders and that he wants to resume peace negotiations on the Syrian and Palestinian tracks as soon as possible."

Mr. Netanyahu's spokesman said meanwhile the Likud leader plans to travel to Jordan and Egypt

after making his maiden visit as Israel's prime minister to the United States in early July.

"Netanyahu has expressed his desire to visit these countries ... but no specific dates have been chosen," the spokesman was quoted as saying by Agence France Presse in a dispatch from occupied Jerusalem.

Mr. Netanyahu is expected to hold his first official meeting with Mr. Clinton on July 8.

Since his narrow election

victory over Mr. Peres, Mr. Netanyahu has sought to reassure Jordan and Egypt — the only Arab states to have signed full peace treaties with Israel — that his right-wing government will pursue the peace process carried out under his Labour predecessor.

It is expected that Mr. Kabir's talks in the UAE and Bahrain would also deal with Jordan's charges that Syria was behind a series of attempts of sabotage in the Kingdom.

Netanyahu clinches majority

(Continued from page 1)

The other 17 portfolios were kept under wraps.

Mr. Sharon, who angered Arabs and the United States by dotting the West Bank and Gaza with settlements under the last Likud government, got back his old job as construction and infrastructure minister responsible for housing.

His reappearance is sure to unsettle Palestinian President Yasser Arafat who has staked his political future on the self-rule accords signed with the outgoing Labour government that froze most settlement.

Likud published its "basic policy guidelines" on Sunday based on the seemingly contradictory stance of pursuing

Middle East peace while strengthening Israel's hold on Arab land (see separate story).

Mr. Netanyahu secured 55 Knesset seats through pacts with three small parties on Sunday but Sharnsky, with seven seats, had held out. His Yisrael Ba-Aliya Party wanted a say in housing and social issues affecting three quarters of a million recent immigrants from the former Soviet union.

It originally demanded the housing ministry that went to Sharon. It was unclear how Mr. Netanyahu and Sharnsky resolved the differences.

Knesset acting speaker Rehavam Zeevi said on Monday the confidence vote would be postponed until Tuesday.

The exact makeup of Mr. Netanyahu's cabinet, however, remained shrouded in mystery Monday as he wrangled with demanding coalition partners and senior Likud members over who will get the 17 portfolios he is allowed by law.

"It's long and complicated," acknowledged former Likud Justice Minister Dan Meridor, a leading Likud moderate whose future in the new government remained uncertain.

Other Likud Party "princes," possible inheritors of the party leadership and potential rivals to Mr. Netanyahu, did not fare as well as they might have hoped: Benjamin Begin, son of the late prime minister, was offered the science and technology ministry. Moshe Katzav, head of the Likud faction in the Knesset, was given the choice of tourism or communications.

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Jordan pins peace dividend on Israel ties

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan, with few tangible rewards from Middle East peace so far, hopes close ties with Israel's new government will give it the elusive "peace dividend".

While Middle East tension created by the new Israeli government could harm Jordan in the long-term, businessmen and officials see the prospect of short-term benefits they failed to gain under the former Labour government.

They privately say Jordan could even benefit from trouble between Palestinians and the new hardline government that would cause local and domestic

investors to focus on Jordan rather than the riskier Palestinian self-rule areas.

A flight of capital to Jordan from Palestinian self-rule areas by investors seeking a safe haven could boost foreign reserves and domestic investment.

Industrialists, who have sought business in the West Bank that Jordan ruled from 1950 until Israel captured it in 1967, hope an Israel keen to please its warmest Arab friend will ensure a better share in a West Bank market worth over \$1.6 billion annually.

"One of the biggest economic gains of peace will be opening the Palestinian market which is a natural market to Jordanian prod-

ucts," said Fakhri Bilbeisi, deputy head of the Jordanian Businessmen Association.

A slowing of peace talks with the Palestinians could also reassure those Jordanian officials who feared the self-rule areas would draw the lion's share of any peace windfall.

Although the business community is suspicious of Israel and reluctant to profit at Palestinian expense, Jordanian officials see foreign capital — primarily Israeli — tapping the country's lower costs through job generating joint-ventures.

Longer term, many argue that Jordan's challenge is creating a more competitive free market. But that change

will be more difficult if both local and foreign investor confidence is dealt a blow by the fading prospects of a full Arab-Israeli settlement.

Despite widespread grumbling of the minimal peace dividend since the treaty, partly reflecting high expectations, Jordanian businessmen had positioned themselves for a post-peace Middle East investment boom.

"In my view we will be totally influenced by what happens to the Palestinians and any deterioration on that front will put Jordan in a slow economic path," Mr. Bilbeisi said.

U.S. diplomat outlines several measures to improve Jordan's standing among international investors

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The U.S. remains fully supportive of Jordan's efforts to improve its economy but it would also like to see the Kingdom undertake several measures that would better its standing among international investors, according to a senior U.S. diplomat.

These measures, said Gary A. Grappo, counsellor for economic and commercial affairs at the U.S. Embassy, include the quick adoption of an anti-trust (or anti-monopoly) law and decontrol of prices, legislation to protect intellectual property rights and the passage of new laws on companies and the Amman Financial Market (AFM).

Mr. Grappo, who was addressing the Amman West Rotary Club, acknowledged that Jordan had taken "very positive steps towards improving the economic environment" — including the adoption of the investment promotion law and amendments to the tax legislation as well as moves towards commercialising telecommunications and electricity generation.

The additional measures called for, Mr. Grappo said, should help further Jordan's efforts to invite foreign investment.

"Price controls are antithetical to free markets and foreign investment prefers free markets," he said.

In the realm of intellectual property rights (IPR), Jordan's current law violates most international norms for IPR protection and is discouraging foreign investors," said the diplomat, who took office at the U.S. Embassy shortly before Amman hosted the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) summit in October last year.

Jordan also needs transparency in laws related to companies and the stock market and this could be achieved when the Kingdom adopts a new

Companies Law and a legislation related to the AFM, he said.

"Let us not forget Jordan is in the international market for investors' dollars," Mr. Grappo told the Rotary Club audience. "It competes with nations around the world for investors looking for places to put their money, their factories and plants, and their office."

"Jordan is the product and Jordanians must be prepared to market and promote that product. Jordanian laws should compare favourably with those of other nations around the world competing for investment dollars, and especially with those of countries in the region," he added.

Mr. Grappo revealed that 50 or so American companies have sent teams to Jordan since the MENA summit to explore business opportunities in energy, telecommunications, tourism development and industrial and consumer products among others.

"Many are coming because they just want to know more about Jordan and the region and have no specific plans yet," he said. "Others are actively pursuing business opportunities."

There are three main reasons behind American companies' interest in Jordan, according to Mr. Grappo. These are:

— "The peace process and Jordan's historic decision to become a full player in it have convinced them that there is sufficient stability in the region and in Jordan to begin thinking about doing business here."

— "They believe that there are real opportunities for doing business and making money here."

— "Jordan itself is making measures to attract and promote international busi-

ness and investment in the country."

The U.S. diplomat recounted a few of the developments related to Jordan's economy since the MENA summit.

These included the launch of the Middle East and Mediterranean Tourism Association, the finalisation of the articles of agreement of the Middle East Development Bank prior to presentation to the U.N., the formation of the Regional Business Council and the establishment of the permanent office in Amman of the Regional Economic Development Working Group.

"The United States has played and will continue to play a strong supportive role in these institutions," said Mr. Grappo. "They are important to us in helping solidify the progress we have made in bringing peace to the region."

In the bilateral context with Jordan, the U.S. has undertaken several steps to help the Kingdom's economy, he said, citing the write-off of about \$700 million in Amman's official debts to Washington, the increase (from \$30 million to \$40 million) in commodity credits, \$10 million for food purchases, \$1.8 million in grants for feasibility studies on expanding Aqaba airport, a fibre-optic linkage between Amman and Tel Aviv and along the Jordan Valley, a data communications system and a hazardous waste management facility in Aqaba.

The Trade and Development Agency, a U.S. government arm which provided the grants, "is aggressively searching for other areas where it can fund feasibility studies," Mr. Grappo added.

He noted that the U.S. had offered to negotiate a bilat-

eral investment treaty and an intellectual property rights agreement with Jordan. After some more consultations, formal negotiations could be launched soon, he added.

The U.S. official described the outcome of a recent meeting between Jordanian and American officials as successful since both sides presented their views and said a second round of talks would be held this summer.

Mr. Grappo lamented that "very few" American exporters to Jordan or Jordanian importers from the U.S. were taking advantage of the financing opportunities offered by the Eximbank and said Washington was inviting Amman government officials to discuss "how Jordan can take greater advantage of Exim financing programmes."

In conclusion, said Mr. Grappo, despite the challenges facing Jordanians, "I'm optimistic about Jordan and America's close relationship with Jordan."

"I tell American businessmen who visit me everyday that the Jordan of the year 2000 will be a much changed and even better one than they see today..."

HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR TUESDAY JUNE 18, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson,
Astrologer, Carroll
Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Listen to as many good friends as you can at this time and improve your future. Try not to irritate your mate this evening.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 21) Be with persons of activity today and talk with bigwigs about important matters. Avoid a grumpy person tonight or there could be difficulties.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You can handle your finest ideas at different outlets today, but avoid career activities later this evening which could be very trying.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You had better make slight changes at this time with a fellow associate and you can improve matters later in the days ahead.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You have an opportunity to make a good friend and become a fine ally for the days to come. Don't disagree with your loved ones.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Add more mechanisms which can make your home function more efficiently. Gain the cooperation of a fellow associate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can be out looking into new outlets during the daytime today and be more interesting in the modern methods of operation.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Get busy this morning at making your home more charming and livable. Later this evening invite interesting people in and entertain them well.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You are thinking brilliantly and you can plan the new week's activities very well so that you can be very successful in your duties.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to Jan. 20) Study your property today and see how best to improve it so that it becomes more valuable. Add to existing assets so you can handle the lean times.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You have fine ideas for attaining the wishes which mean much to you today, so go after them early. This is a profitable day.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Plan how to get into a more modern mode of living and be happier and more successful. Be dramatic and please a loved one.

Birthstone of June:
Emerald — Citrine

Pakistan unveils heavy tax budget

ISLAMABAD (AFP) —

Amid noisy opposition protests, the Pakistan government has unveiled a 500.2 billion rupee (\$14.2 billion) budget which includes heavy new taxes to combat a deficit.

The new taxes are expected to raise 40.8 billion rupees (\$1.1 billion) during fiscal 1996-97 starting in July, minister of state for finance Makhdoom Shahabuddin told parliament.

To meet a 60.8 billion rupees overall budgetary deficit, the government also plans to mobilise 20 billion rupees through bank borrowing, he said.

Mr. Shahabuddin said the budget deficit would be reduced to four per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) during the next year, down from five per cent of GDP in fiscal 1995-96.

The government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has allocated 16 billion rupees more for defence expenditure — during 1996-97, up from 115.3 billion rupees in the outgoing year, he said.

"We have been able to contain inflation but it needs further lowering," Mr. Shahabuddin said.

Officials have claimed the prevailing rate of inflation is around 11 per cent, compared to last year's 13 per cent. But independent estimates have put it at about twice the official figure.

Referring to new taxation, Mr. Shahabuddin said sacrifice is needed for a better future for the Pakistani nation.

Mr. Shahabuddin announced that the government had decided not to withdraw an existing 10 per cent regulatory duty on imports and also deferred a plan to bring down tariff ceilings from 65 to 55 per cent.

"Our major expenditure is debt repayments," which have increased every year with Pakistan's total external debts estimated now at about \$23 billion.

The debt-service burden will be around 186 billion rupees in 1996-97, Mr. Shahabuddin said.

Ms. Bhutto's government has focussed on balancing income and expenditure in accordance with guidelines from the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) since coming to power in October 1993.

Mr. Shahabuddin said Pakistan firmly believed in macro-economic stability and economic reforms, and "intends to adhere to agreements with IMF". Economic commentators and the opposition have blamed the government of burdening the common man with new taxes instead of reducing its own "wasteful" spending, in order to meet IMF demand for cutting the budget deficit.

Israeli economy seen headed for a slowdown

By Tova Cohen
Reuters

TEL AVIV — Inflation is heating up, interest rates are almost certain to rise and Israel's economy appears headed for a slowdown, economists said Sunday.

"There's no choice. A recession is needed," said the front-page headline of Israel's biggest daily Yedioth Ahronoth.

The newspaper's economics editor Sever Plocher warned readers: "Tighten your seat belts and watch your pockets carefully. The economy is landing on a recession — a landing that won't be soft."

The government Friday reported that consumer prices climbed 1.7 per cent in May, following a similar rise in April. May's index was half a percentage point above market forecasts of a 1.1 to 1.3 per cent increase.

Inflation is now running at an annual rate of 15 per cent, well above last year's 8.1 per cent and the government's 1996 target of 8-10 per cent. Economists agree that a slowdown in economic growth, although not necessarily a recession, is on the horizon.

Next week the Bank of Israel will announce interest rates for June. Economists say it's not a question of whether the bank will raise rates but by how much.

"With everyone now talking about 14 per cent inflation, the central bank has no

choice but to raise rates. The question is whether it will compromise or go for an increase of one percentage point or more, which is what it should have done a few months ago," said Jonathan Katz, senior economist at Capital Holdings Consultants.

Nadine Bandot Trajtenberg, an economist at Bank Hapoalim, predicted the central bank would raise rates by 0.5 to 0.7 percentage point.

In late May, the central bank hiked its key lending rate by 0.7 percentage point to an annualised 15.5 per cent.

Other economists forecast a rate hike of one percentage point or more.

"I'm on the lower end (of forecasts). I think there are other indications the economy is slowing down, such as money supply (which fell 0.7 per cent in May)," Ms. Bandot-Trajtenberg said.

The central bank alone cannot control inflation. Economists say the new government, led by Likud's Benjamin Netanyahu, must tighten fiscal policy, and a cut in public spending will lead to a slowdown.

THE Daily Crossword by Harold B. Counts

ACROSS

1 Maiden

5 Region in Germany

10 Baking place

14 European capital

15 Pueblo pal

16 Abominable

17 Impediments

20 Eternal

21 Texas town

22 — longa, vita brevis

23 Plus

24 Zenanas

28 Mine entrance

29 "Harper Valley —"

32 "That's —" (Martin hit)

33 Bikini tops

34 Observed

35 Fare to there and back

38 Otherwise

39 Eject

40 Singer Judd

41 Collection

42 — dieu (kneeling bench)

43 Emphasize

44 Plant with fronds

45 Pasture sound

46 Cat, goat or rabbit

49 Shares

54 Complaining

56 Included with

57 Perfume

58 Mr. Kazan

59 Confederate soldiers

60 Join

61 Ceases

DOWN

1 Asea

2 Italian wine center

3 Ghetto

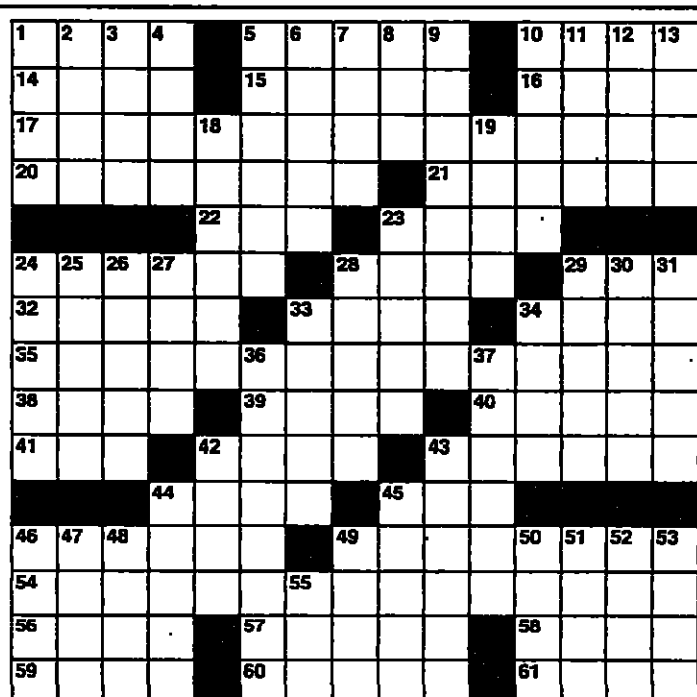
4 A few

5 Farm machines

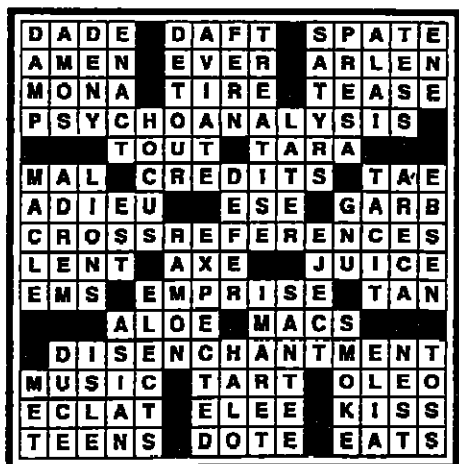
6 Wrong

7 Noises

8 Breakfast favorite



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9 Certain award recipient
10 Convex molding
11 Immoral practice
12 Wapitis
13 Loch — monster
18 Accused
19 Appetite
23 Conform
24 Rabbits
25 Soap plant
26 Chase out of bed
27 Sea bird
28 Meet the day
29 Tea
30 Swarms
31 Those opposed
33 Bear
34 War memento
36 CA city
37 Entirely
42 Beautiful young girl
43 Post office employee

44 Laps
45 Clergyman's residence
46 Distant
47 Honor
48 Unctuous
49 Liquid measure
50 Sheltered
51 Oven
52 OK town
53 Seven
55 Army title; abbr.

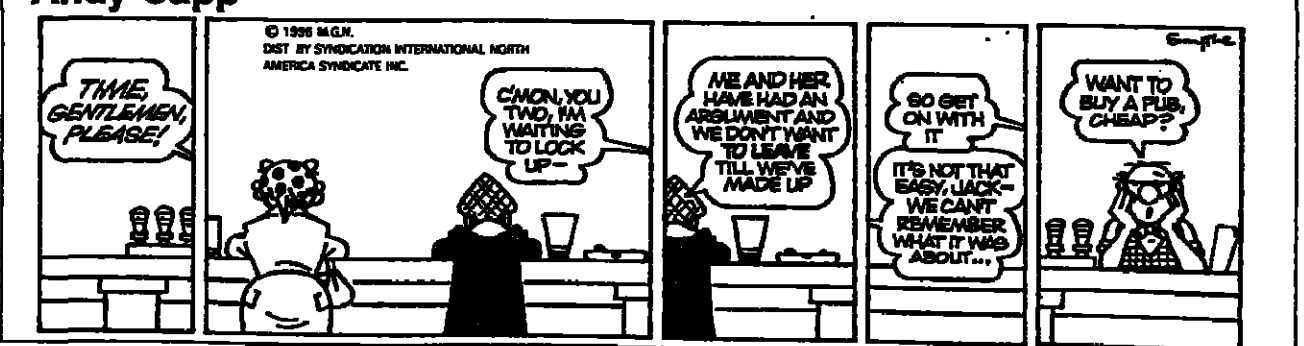
THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff





Futures trading planned for Kuwaiti bourse

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — The Kuwait Stock Exchange (KSE) plans to launch a pilot scheme to trade futures in local shares soon, becoming the first Gulf bourse to offer this type of investment instrument, its head has said.

The new futures market is among several initiatives, including opening up trade to foreigners aimed at improving the efficiency and performance of the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange, the exchange's general manager, Hisham Al Otaibi, said.

He said the futures market would start as a six-month trial scheme to test the response of local investors.

"I don't want to be pinned down to a certain date," he said, adding the trial scheme was "not far off."

Futures are financial instruments which allow investors to buy or sell shares at a set price on a specified future date. The instruments can be used to protect an investor's portfolio against future risks, such as a sudden downturn in share prices.

"They will have the effect of stabilising the market and allowing investors to minimise risk," Mr. Otaibi said.

"The market here is a cash market, so we need to introduce more instruments."

That's the normal evolution of the market.

Electronic trading, introduced at the end of 1995, has "made our market more transparent and efficient and given more confidence," Mr. Otaibi said.

It is also one of the first steps towards opening up the market to greater foreign participation because information can now be transferred quickly and efficiently worldwide, he said.

He added that a paper on the legal changes required to open up the market was being drawn up by the commerce and industry ministry.

At present, foreigners are allowed to invest in three Kuwaiti listed mutual funds, but are not allowed to hold

stocks directly.

The Kuwaiti stock market is one of the most active Arab markets with the value of shares traded in the first five months of 1996 reaching about \$5 billion, Mr. Otaibi said.

"So I think by the end of the year we might reach up to \$10 billion," he said.

This compares with trading values of about \$1.5 billion in 1994 and \$6.5 billion in 1995.

He said trading had been boosted by the strong response by investors to the sale of government shares and confidence in the government's handling of the economy.

Traders see oil prices slumping \$3 by end of year

SINGAPORE (R) — World oil prices could plummet by \$3.00 per barrel by the end of the year following OPEC's decision to raise its output to accommodate the return of Iraqi oil after nearly a six-year ban, oil traders have said.

They said U.S. benchmark crude oil prices should hold steady around current levels of \$20.00/\$20.50 per barrel until Iraqi oil hits the market in August.

Most analysts expected crude oil futures prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX) could then begin a slump to \$17.00 per barrel or less.

Low U.S. inventory levels and stronger gasoline demand during the U.S. summer driving season would likely support prices for the next few months, traders said.

U.S. crude oil stocks at end-May were 15.5 million barrels below the same period in 1995 and gasoline inventories were two million barrels less than year-ago levels.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) has raised its production ceiling to 25,033 million barrels per day (bpd) from 24,52 million bpd, after allocating an extra 800,000 bpd to Iraq and removing the 287,000 bpd for Gabon, which announced it had quit OPEC.

Oil traders in Asia said they were disappointed that OPEC had failed to address perennial key issues such as quota compliance, but there was no immediate price reaction in the region.

"The market is steady because OPEC's agreement was seen as the last of the bearish news. The market now looks to U.S. oil stock data, in particular gasoline, for direction," the oil trader said.

Like others, he expected that a strong U.S. economy, reflected by the robust May U.S. employment data, as well as firmer demand during the summer Olympic games would support gasoline prices.

The near-term outlook for Asia's oil market was positive as demand had been healthy enough to absorb supplies, traders said.

Asian and Mideast crude markets have been well-supported by steady Japanese and South Korean buying, especially of lighter crudes, as customers scramble to rebuild stocks depleted by the colder-than-expected winter.

Brokers expected the market would likely remain quiet in the near term as traders reassessed world supply and demand.

BUSINESS

A review of news from the Arabic press

Higher fees for work permits are under review at Prime Ministry

UNDER A draft regulation submitted by the Ministry of Labour to the Council of Ministers, the annual fees paid by non-Jordanian workers will be increased. The ministry expects the Cabinet to discuss the draft regulation and approve it by next week at the latest. Labourers of Arab nationalities will have to pay JD 25 per year to get a permit to work in the agricultural sector and JD 150 in other sectors. Non-Arabs seeking permits to work in the agricultural sector will have to pay JD 150 whereas for all other sectors the annual permit fee will be JD 350.

Under the present regulation, Arab labourers in the farming sector have to pay JD 10 annually and JD 100 for working in other fields. Permit fees for non-Arabs are JD 50 for farming work and JD 500 for all other sectors.

The draft regulation imposes a minimum monthly fine of JD 50, but not exceeding JD 100, to be paid by employers for employing non-Jordanians in violation of the articles of the regulation. The fine, which applies for a month or a part of, cannot be reduced under any circumstances or for any reason. Under the present regulation, the fine is not less than JD 50 and not more than JD 75. At Amman.

Hadid discounts higher interest as main reason for AFM slump

JAWAD HADID, general manager of the Arab Banking Corporation (ABC), said that the monetary policy of the Central Bank was one of the main reasons for the slump in the Amman Financial Market (AFM). He said that the stock exchange witnessed a sudden boom from 1991 and that share prices rose to astronomical levels for three consecutive years before the start of a gradual decline in the prices and in the volume of trade. "An economic boom must be followed by a recession to correct the unusual upsurge during the flourishing years," Mr. Hadid pointed out. Such a situation carries psychological effects which affect economic behaviour by having people refrain from spending and moving towards saving and, consequently, deepening the recession.

"The behaviour at the AFM has never historically been affected by interest rates at all," Mr. Hadid stressed, noting that the stock exchange will recover and flourish during the coming years but not like the years of 1991, 1992 and 1993. He described the three years as being an "unusual historic upsurge" which was caused by the Gulf crisis and which does not always recur.

The prominent banker went a step further by describing the investors at the secondary market of the AFM as not real investors in the sense that they do not pump new money in projects. "What takes place there is the exchange of shares between one investor and another at prices that move among them," he indicated. "Investment at the primary market activates economic growth but investment at the secondary market is only an encouraging factor to invest in the primary market," Al Dastouri.

Egypt opens door to private sector to build four desert highways

CAIRO (AFP) — Egypt is to allow the private sector to build four desert highways, including two running the length of the country parallel to the Nile River, the newspaper Al Akhbar has said.

The cabinet agreed to the projects, the government daily said, adding that projects to build three electrical stations at a total cost of \$1.4 billion will also be given to private investors.

One of the highways will run from Alexandria on the Mediterranean coast to Faiyum, 240 kilometres to the south, it said.

A second will run 850 kilometres from Faiyum to Aswan, Egypt's southernmost town, creating a highway running the entire length of the country.

Another route running 260 kilometres will link the southern town of Dairut with Farafra oasis in the Western Desert.

The fourth, 500 kilometres long, will connect Kharga oasis, also in the Western Desert, with Sharq Al Awaat.

Contracts for the roads, the first to be built by the private sector, will be open to international bids, the paper said.

Al Akhbar said that two electricity stations are to be built by the private sector on Egypt's Red Sea coast, while a third is for the Mediterranean shore.

The projects are among Egypt's first moves to open infrastructure projects to the private sector.

Financial Markets

Jordan Times in co-operation with Cairo Amman Bank

General Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 17/6/1996

Currency	Buy	Sell
U.S. Dollar	0.7053	0.7100
Swiss Franc	1.0817	1.0841
Deutsche Mark	0.4656	0.4681
Swiss Franc	0.5657	0.5680
French Franc	0.1373	0.1380
Japanese Yen	0.00492	0.00494
Dutch Guilder	0.4159	0.4180
Italian Lira	0.0050	0.0051
Other Currencies		
Currency	Buy	Sell
Bahraini Dinar	1.9650	1.9780
Lebanese Lira	0.24525	0.245025
Saudi Riyal	0.1870	0.1895
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.3310	2.3670
Qatari Riyal	0.1955	0.1945
Egyptian Pound	0.2100	0.2200
Omani Riyal	1.8350	1.8410
UAE Dirham	0.1955	0.1955
Greek Drachma	0.0035	0.0035

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

\$1.00 costs	1.3656/66	Canadian dollar
	1.5176/86	German marks
	1.6998/08	Dutch guilders
	1.2496/06	Swiss francs
	31.22/26	Belgian francs
	5.1494/44	French francs
	1539.4/0.9	Italian lire
	108.85/95	Japanese yen
	6.6630/30	Swedish crowns
	6.5120/70	Norwegian crowns
	5.8517/67	Danish crowns
	1.4080/90	Singapore dollars
	0.7910/15	Australian dollars
	7.7318/23	Hong Kong dollars
One Sterling	\$1.5436/46	
Gold (ounce)	\$384.90/385.40	

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
BANKING SECTOR TOTALS
INDEX: 173.72
CHG: -0.26

COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
280.000 205.000	12.0	1.80	1	21900	219.20	-0.10
4.780 4.120	12.8	1.35	5	2182	4.26	-0.04
3.800 3.250	12.1	0.00	8	23276	3.40	-0.04
1.810 1.020	66.3	0.20	4	3452	2.21	-0.08
2.700 2.210	5.1	4.30	8	3452	2.21	-0.08
2.940 2.600	20.2	0.20	8	3452	2.21	-0.08
1.330 920	5.6	0.20	17	16235	2.76	-0.10
4.180 3.300	18.4	0.50	7	1395	3.83	-0.13
6.000 1.900	9.1	0.00	1	250	2.92	-0.02
3.850 2.420	9.1	0.00	1	250	2.92	-0.02
1.200 2.410	4.7	0.10	2	302	2.78	-0.11
1.930 1.060	9	0.60	27	6885	1.11	-0.02

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS
INDEX: 123.39
CHG: +0.15

COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
1.800 1.520	10.7	7.79	29	5620	5.84	1.54
1.840 1.460	8.5	0.00	4	56	1.30	-0.06
2.860 1.190	19.3	8.35	1	1535	1.30	-0.08
3.600 3.070	19.3	8.35	1	1535	1.30	-0.08
1.900 1.800	9	0.00	1	250	2.92	-0.02
2.540 1.870	10.5	5.00	14	5250	10.51	-0.01
1.200 1.820	9	0.00	3	1050	2.08	-0.02

FINANCIAL SECTOR TOTALS
INDEX: 112.42
CHG: -0.12

COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
1.560 1.170	9	0.00	2	2750	3.28	1.25
3.950 3.270	12.3	2.93	15	21900	2.18	-0.05
3.550 2.900	32.6	0.00	1	100	2.95	0.04
3.960 3.400	16.1	3.75	7	2580	5.34	5.33
10.100 8.900	9.9	8.24	1010	6601	20.22	9.72
6.300 6.900	9.9	3.60	7	504	6.98	6.96
5.390 3.410	18.6	8.85	12	2100	10.633	3.47
1.500 1.100	9	0.00	1	1100	2.80	1.62
6.220 3.800	5.7	11.08	18	4100	15071	3.80
740 440	9	0.00	24	28000	14220	5.7
1.800 1.180	6.2	8.56	13	9500	11488	1.27
2.800 1.250	12.0	0.00	4	611	816	1.37
1.450 810	7.41	3	3	2855	2.67	0.02
2.620 1.060	9	0.00	48	14300	15465	1.27
1.240 810	9	0.00	17	6145	6.97	1.02
0.970 2.580	21.3	0.00	2	400	3.98	3.90
1.770 1.950	9	0.00	23	9980	9748	1.00
2.380 1.080	30.1	5.00	69	30200	48762	1.88
1.450 1.380	7.15	8.00	1	400	592	2.60
2.280 1.380	10.0	0.00	3	1150	1719	1.80
2.000 1.000	31.2	0.00	17	7400	6595	1.16
2.500 1.700	8.80	0.00	14	3455	6841	1.97
1.560 1.120	28.9	0.00	9	4850	5171	2.22

INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS
INDEX: 111.64
CHG: -0.54

GRAND TOTAL
INDEX: 142.26
CHG: -0.40

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 17/06/1996

COMPANY'S NAME	P/E	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF TRADING	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
1.850 700	18.9	0.00	15	56100	18669	72
1.400 760	12.1	0.00	8	6390	1715	77
1.410 630	9	0.20	16	12480	8025	70
1.890 1.340	9	0.00	2	2280	725	61
1.090 630	6	0.00	6	216	1188	66
1.920 1.380	9	0.00	13	7000	11037	1.76
1.850 520	9	0.00	2	380	211	6
1.800 800	9	0.00	5	1750	1050	60
1.100 700	9	0.00	27	11050	8188	75
1.150 800	9	0.00	22	18900	13564	88
1.130 680	9	0.00	16	19535	7213	68
1.130 680	9	0.00	5	2700	963	77
1.970 560	34.3	0.00	8	6183	2924	58
1.520 880	9	0.00	7	705	628	82
1.500 580	8.0	0.00	28	26750	18140	68

GRAND TOTAL
INDEX: 111.64
CHG: -0.54

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 17/06/1996

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Euro 96

Croatia relax as rivals enter qualifying maze

MANCHESTER (R) — Only Croatia, Romania and Turkey can throw away their calculators and ignore the complex qualifying choices going into the final round of Euro 96 group matches this week.

Croatia are able to relax as the solitary side to reach the last eight, while two defeats in two matches have condemned the Romanians and Turks to shadowy roles in the main drama. The rest are somewhere in between, retaining at least a mathematical chance of reaching the quarter-finals but forced to wait until Tuesday and Wednesday for all to be settled.

Games in the same group will kick off at identical times to avoid any suggestion of mutual back-scratching and, in terms of potential big-name disappointment, the most significant encounters appear to be at Wembley and Old Trafford.

Hosts England may have cheered their supporters with a 2-0 win over Scotland on Saturday, but would appreciate some more magic from Paul Gascoigne to make absolutely certain of qualification against the Netherlands in Group A on Tuesday.

The Dutch are not currently the happiest of teams, yet still have the potential to puncture English optimism swiftly and effectively. Should the Dutch win, the Swiss could yet sneak back into the frame by beating Scotland. Manchester will stage an equally tense evening when Germany face Italy, with the onus on the Italians to rescue their coach Arrigo Sacchi from public outrage.

The Czech Republic's surprise 2-1 win on Friday has left the Italians with no margin for error in Group C against a German side who are proving adept at punishing any hesitancy in opposition ranks.

With the mood darkening in the Russian camp and Juergen Klinsmann in irresistible form, the odds must be on the Germans and Czechs going through.

The situation is also tight in Group B with the possibility of Bulgaria, France and Spain finishing on five points and facing qualification on goal difference.

France meet Bulgaria in Newcastle, while Spain, two points adrift of their two rivals, take on the already eliminated Romanians in Leeds. Champions Denmark must beat eliminated Turkey by three clear goals in Group D and hope that Croatia finish with a 100 percent record by overcoming Portugal.

Tuesday's Euro 96 schedule on JTV

* France - Bulgaria	6:30 p.m.	channel 2
* Romania - Spain	6:30 p.m.	channel 2
* England - Netherlands	9:30 p.m.	channel 1
* Scotland - Switzerland	9:30 p.m.	channel 1



Three local boys run together with Bulgarian soccer players (left to right) Ilian Kiriakov, Krasimir Balakov and Hristo Stoichkov during a practice session of Bulgarian team. Bulgaria will play against France Tuesday in a European soccer Championship game (Reuters photo)

France out to right a wrong

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Unbeaten France have the chance to right what they consider a grave wrong when they meet Bulgaria in their final Group B match here Tuesday.

It was two and a half years ago when the French team were last beaten and it was the Bulgarians who inflicted it.

More importantly, Bulgaria's win in Paris put France out of the 1994 World Cup finals and sparked a crisis in French football.

Since then French coach Aime Jacquet, brought in after the Bulgarian debacle, has gone 25 straight matches without defeat and his "junior" team is one of the Euro 96 favourites.

But despite the undoubted talent — most of the team will be playing Serie A next season — the French have still to shine here.

A costly 1-1 draw on Saturday when they let Spain draw level only five minutes from time followed an unconvincing win against Romania in their tournament opener.

It was a bitter blow for the French who, if they had managed to hold on against

the Spaniards, would have become the first team to go into the quarter-finals.

Instead they have an all-deciding show down against Bulgaria and their in-form striker Hristo Stoichkov.

"I am disappointed. We made numerous chances but were unable to take them and our finishing is something of a worry."

"But we'll look forward to the next game. This is a young team really looking to the future and they will continue to improve," vows Jacquet.

Again much will hinge on the performances of Youri Djorkaeff and Zinedine Zidane around who the mid-field-attack is built.

Djorkaeff has yet to stamp his authority on the championships and although showing flashes of brilliance he has also missed chances when it looked easier to score.

Jacquet can not be happy that his side have managed only two goals in two matches and one of them was thanks to a goalkeeping blunder.

While France is building for the future, Bulgaria is giving what is probably a final hooray for its aging

stars.

Again Bulgaria success depends on their volatile goalscorer Hristo Stoichkov whose ability to strike from anywhere has made him one of the most feared attackers in the world.

It was the swaggering Parma player who put paid to France's World Cup hopes nearly three years ago. Stoichkov has already scored twice in Euro 96 and would have got a third in the Spanish match but for the fact he was ruled off-side.

Television replays proved his goal was good. The problem was Stoichkov was simply so quick off the mark that the linesman did not believe it was possible so he flagged off-side.

France have Laurent Blanc, who preferred Barcelona over Manchester United for next season, and Marcel Desailly at the centre of their defence and the two will be fully tested by Stoichkov and Emil Kostadinov.



Danish goal keeper Peter Schmeichel gestures after Davor Suker of Croatia lobbed the ball over him and scored his team's third goal during their European Soccer Championship match, June 16. Croatia won the match 3-0 (Reuters photo)

Croats show true potential at last

SHEFFIELD (R) — Croatia finally justified their billing as one of the most exciting teams of Euro 96 Sunday — just as they were about to be labelled the tournament's biggest bores.

Croatia had spent much of a game and a half with seven or eight players behind the ball. Passes were monotonously made sideways when they had possession.

But in the second half of Sunday's Group D game with champion Denmark, the Croatia that everyone had been waiting to see suddenly emerged from its shell.

The Croats, who struggled to beat Turkey in their first game and were 0-0 at half-time against Denmark, scored three stylish goals without reply.

Striker Davor Suker also revived memories of Pele at his best when he tried to lob Denmark goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel from near the

halfway line.

"I could see Schmeichel was off his line and I've seen from other matches that he likes to do the same thing. The shot went amazingly well but he got back very quickly and tipped it over the top."

"I have tried a lot of times to score a goal like this. I have done it once in a match in Croatia but not in an international game."

Suker also scored one of the competition's best goals when he chipped the ball over the hapless Schmeichel in the last minute.

"It was the best game I have ever played," he said.

Almost inevitably, Croatia coach Miroslav Blazevic was asked after the game if he considered his team to be the "Brazil of Europe", a tag which has so far been attached to the Portuguese.

"There is only one Brazil," he replied, adding: "I think we gave a good

footballing performance that was enjoyed by the world."

But it was not clear whether Croatia will turn on the style from the start of their games or if they will return to their patient but rather dull football.

Suker promised Croatia's philosophy was to attack. "In the first half, we wanted to attack but we couldn't. It was very difficult and the Laudrup brothers (Brian and Michael) were playing very well," he said.

But defender Slaven Bilic gave a different version.

"We waited for them to come to us," he said of the first half. In the second half, we scored three wonderful goals and I think people will change their opinion about us. "We had a lot of criticism after the first game but now the team has showed the world what we can do," added midfielder Robert Prosinecki.

Hagi gets last chance to show the world his 'genius' today

NEWCASTLE (AFP) — Gheorghe Hagi has his last chance to show the world just how good he can be when he plays against Spain here on Tuesday.

Fading star Hagi, whose genius with a football came to marvellous fruition during the 1994 World Cup, was a spent force in his first two Euro 96 matches.

Romania were dreadfully unlucky against Bulgaria when a clear goal, which bounced down over the goal-line the crossbar and out again, was disallowed.

But had Hagi shown his sparkling form of USA '94, Romania might still have gone on to win and through to the quarter-finals.

Hagi has shown major schizophrenia in his performances for club and country.

His outings have been split between superb ones for Romania and terrible ones by his clubs, including Real Madrid.

Brescia and Barcelona.

Now 31, Hagi, even if he went to the next World Cup in France in 1998, can hardly be expected to improve, so Eland Road is the venue of his final fling.

When on form, his artistry would even make people with no interest in football impressed by his play.

He can cut a defence in half with accurate passing, he can beat defenders, can shoot from all sorts of seemingly impossible angles, and can do with his left foot things that most other internationals can only dream about.

Against Spain, Hagi might at least perform a few of the touches which have made him one of the most watchable players of his generation.

It would be a fitting end for a genius who never got enough time to shine.

McAllister awaits Switzerland match

BIRMINGHAM (AFP) — Gary McAllister missed the crucial penalty against England on Saturday but such is the respect for the Scottish captain that his colleagues cheered him after the match.

The miss probably ended Scotland's interest in Euro 96 but his team-mates have been rallying around the inspirational Leeds midfielder who has been the country's most influential player for two years.

"After the match we gave him a resounding cheer and were chanting his name," said Rangers striker Ally McCoist.

"He was slightly embarrassed but we wanted him to know how we feel about him and for him."

"I'm rooming with him but there is nothing I can say to him, or any of the lads. We know how he feels. Nothing can change what happened but hopefully he can skipper us to victory on Tuesday."

McAllister says the traumatic experience will not affect his game.

"I've been taking penalties for as long as I can remember, since boys club football in fact. My first instinct is to go and take them and I'll carry on," he said.

"I didn't sleep much on Saturday night reliving the match and obviously the penalty. I made a wrong decision."

McAllister was the dynamo behind Scotland's qualification, his leadership qualities, drive and vision giving focus to an otherwise limited collection of footballers.

McAllister is at his best when he has a point to prove and the Swiss would be foolish to underestimate his determination to make amends.

"Now I owe Scotland 90 minutes against Switzerland and I know I don't have much time to mope about. I'm the captain and I have to get myself up for it. I can't wait for the next game now," he warned.

England out to rewrite the history books

LONDON (AFP) — History is against England when they take on the Dutch at Wembley in their final Euro 96 group match on Tuesday.

Holland have lost just one of their last 20 games against British and Irish sides.

But both teams seem at last to be getting into their stride, so even though a draw would see both through to the quarter-finals, the game looks set to be a cracker.

The Dutch need to win to top the group and stay at Wembley. If they do, they are likely to face either Spain or Bulgaria. The team that finishes second will probably meet France in Liverpool.

Jordi Cruyff, who scored in Holland's 2-0 victory over Switzerland on Thursday, says: "Holland is not a team that goes for a draw. We have to attack."

England coach Terry Venables also says his team will play to win — "as we always do".

Privately the Dutch feel that England are there to be beaten.

They were unimpressed with England's 1-1 draw against Switzerland. "Very bad", was how midfielder star Ronald De Boer described it.

He is convinced that Cruyff, Dennis Bergkamp and Peter Hoesstra have the pace to turn the likes of Stuart Pearce and Tony Adams.

The match-up between Arsenal colleagues Bergkamp and Adams could be the most interesting of the game, presuming Adams recovers in time from injury.

The English may revert to playing four defenders to counter Holland's two wingers, Jamie Redknapp, who helped revive England in the second half of their 2-0 victory over Scotland on Saturday, misses the game through injury.

The Dutch will be relieved that England use only one out-and-out striker, Alan Shearer. Holland have most trouble against sides that use three forwards to disrupt their patient build-up from the back — as the Swiss did successfully in the first half of Thursday.

England's main danger man, midfielder genius Paul Gascoigne, is unlikely to be man marked. Instead, Clarence Seedorf and Ronald De Boer — both highly skilful players themselves — are likely to deal with him depending where he pops up.

England received a confidence boost from their win over the Scots, thanks to Alan Shearer's second goal of the tournament and Gascoigne's first — a beauty.

After the game bookmakers William Hill cut England's odds to win Euro 96 from 9-1 to 11-2. The players had felt under pressure from press and public after their failure against the Swiss and their pre-tournament trip to Hong Kong, where they were photographed drinking heavily in a nightclub.

The Dutch camp has grown turbulent only in the past few days.

Manager Guus Hiddink sent midfielder Edgar Davids home after Davids complained to the press about being dropped against Switzerland.

Seedorf has spoken out in sympathy with his chum. But it is a rare Dutch side that has no rows going on, and Hiddink will hope that the affair will spark some passion in his Hitherto clinical team.

London's police will be out in full force, as apart from the England-Scotland game, this encounter has probably the most hooligan potential of Euro 96.

Injury inspires Becker

LONDON (R) — A little over a week ago Boris Becker was watching the French Open on television, forced to the sidelines because of a torn thigh muscle.

The frustration of missing the chance for another Grand Slam title left the German hungry for success and in his first tournament back Becker won his fourth London grass court championship on Sunday, defeating long-time rival Stefan Edberg 6-4 7-6.

Now Becker wants another Wimbledon title.

"I basically worked eight weeks for nothing," Becker said of missing the French Open.

"Watching it on television and seeing that it was by far the quickest clay court tournament in recent years, made it even harder for me."

"But the pain I felt made me want to play tournaments so much more. It made me eager."

That keenness is not good news for his rivals.

The three times Wimbledon champion is certain to be again at the forefront of contenders for the title, along with champion Pete Sampras, who chose to miss Queen's Club, Goran Ivanisevic, Michael Stich and Andre Agassi.

Becker, 28, the second seed, did not lose a set all week and beat Edberg with a display of power.

The triumph came on the eleventh anniversary of his first tournament success. It was in 1985 as a 17-year-

old that Becker announced his arrival by winning at Queen's Club and he immediately went on to take the first of his Wimbledon titles.

"I feel like I'm giving myself a chance again at Wimbledon being in such good form," said Becker, who won his first Grand Slam title since 1991 at the Australian Open in January.

"In a way I'm a bit surprised to be playing that well so quickly after being injured. To win at Queen's is a big help for my confidence, to know all the shots in your game are working well."

Becker's romance with the All England Club has not diminished with the passing years.

"It doesn't matter who is number one in the world. Wimbledon is always the highlight of my season. I try to gear up for that in the most perfect way," Becker, who last won there in 1989, said.

Both Becker and Edberg, who is retiring from competition play at the end of the year, have hit top form this week. Becker in his first tournament after injury, Edberg after a slow start to the year.

It was the German's 25th win in 35 clashes with Edberg dating back to 1984 and his third straight success over the Swede at Queen's Club.

In 1988, Becker won and he also triumphed in the semifinals in 1990 but both times Edberg went on to win Wimbledon.

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Ivory Coast make shock exit from World Cup

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Ivory Coast, ranked among the top 25 football nations in the world, were shock World Cup African casualties at the weekend.

The 1992 continental champions hosted Congo, 102 places lower on the standings, needing to overcome a two-goal deficit in the preliminary-round tie.

Lassina Dao gave the Ivorians a 23rd-minute lead with a long-range shot in rain-drenched Abidjan, but were thwarted when Charles Imboubia equalised for Congo 10 minutes from the end.

Sierra Leone were another seeded country who failed to qualify for the mini-league phase, losing 1-0 at home to Burundi after losing by the same margin two weeks ago.

Jean-Marie Mbuiy struck the only goal in Freetown two minutes after coming on as a substitute. The loss could have been worse if not for the efforts of Leone stars goalkeeper Brima Camara.

Senegal also made an unexpected exit when Togo

snatched a 1-1 draw in Dakar through a late strike from Akpado Gnavor to squeeze through on goal aggregate.

Mozambique and Algeria were the other favoured countries to be eliminated at the first stage of a struggle to claim the five places allocated to Africa at the 1998 finals in France.

Brilliant goalkeeping by Ronnie Kanalelo earned Namibia a 1-1 draw in Mozambique, where Andre 'Josias' Macamo put the home team ahead and Gerrit Witbein levelled with six minutes to go.

Abdelhafid Tasfaout struck a late winner for Algeria against Kenya, but it was not enough as the harmabee stars had taken a two-goal advantage into a match they finished with nine players.

North African neighbours Tunisia fared better, scoring in each half through Hedi Ben Rekhsa and Adel Selimi to achieve another two-goal success over Rwanda.

Zambia, shock losers in Sudan, staged a superb

comeback in Lusaka to win 3-0 with Dennis Lota heading the decisive 70th-minute goal after being set up by inspirational captain Kalusha Bwalya.

African champions South Africa were equally impressive, outclassing Malawi 3-0 in Johannesburg. American-based forward Shaun Bartlett scored twice.

Angolan Antonio 'Paulao' Alves raised his goal tally to four by striking twice in the 3-1 triumph over Uganda in Luanda, where 80,000 packed the Citadela stadium.

An equally large crowd in Kinshasa saw Zaire follow up a 5-1 victory in Mauritius by winning 2-0 through goals by Michel Ngonze and Tondelua Mbuiy.

Zimbabwe, without injured key forward Peter Ndlovu, had to come from behind twice to hold Madagascar 2-2 in Harare and advance on the strength of their away win.

Momo Soumah was the two-goal hero as Guinea triumphed 3-1 against Guinea Bissau.



Seattle Supersonics forward Shawn Kemp puffs his cheeks after fouling out late in the fourth quarter of the Supersonics 87-75 loss to the Chicago Bulls (Reuters photo)



Chicago Bulls' coach Phil Jackson (centre) holds NBA championship trophy and celebrates with Scottie Pippen (left) and Michael Jordan (right), after defeating the Seattle Supersonics in Game Six of the NBA Finals, June 16 in Chicago. Chicago won the game 87-75 to capture their fourth title in six years (Reuters photo)

Bulls capture NBA title with 87-75 win

CHICAGO (AFP) — Destiny seemed to direct Michael Jordan to this moment, delaying a championship for the Chicago Bulls so it could become a tearful tribute on a day when sons honor their fathers.

In the joyous minutes after Chicago's 87-75 triumph over Seattle here Sunday for the National Basketball Association title, Jordan dedicated the title to his father James, whose murder in 1993 pushed him into retirement.

"My father is here. I know he is watching," a tearful Jordan said. "This is for my father. This is right up there with having my kids. This means a lot for what it symbolizes, my father on father's day."

On this day when families honour fathers, Jordan's tribute was 22 points, nine rebounds, seven assists and a spirited leadership that has guided the Bulls throughout a record-breaking 72-win regular season and a 15-3 playoff run. Chicago's overall 87-13 mark is also an NBA mark.

"Who would have ever written this season? Who would have predicted it?" Jordan said. "Things work in mysterious ways."

Chicago captured their fourth crown in six years by winning the best-of-seven series four games to two. The Bulls took a 3-0 lead then lost twice to set up the fairy tale ending, as if directed by a higher power to make Jordan win the crown on a day of painful memories.

"I'm happy the team pulled me through it. It was a tough time for me," Jordan said. "This is probably the hardest time for me to play the game of basketball. I had a lot of things on my heart and my mind. I just had a lot to think about."

"Deep down inside, it was geared to what has mattered most, my family and my father not being here."

His father's death contributed to a decision for Michael to retire in October of 1993, saying he had lost his passion for the game after three consecutive crowns.

Jordan spent a year playing minor-league baseball, fulfilling his father's dream. But Jordan left behind baseball during a labour feud last year, realising his father's dream was not his own yet learning from it.

"Those minor-league guys meant a lot to me," Jordan said. "They got me back to playing basketball. They inspired me by playing something they loved so much."

Jordan returned 17 months after leaving, vowing the Bulls would reclaim the NBA throne. The Bulls were ousted in the second round last year but Jordan made good on his promise Sunday, inspiring a joyous celebration across the city.

"I'm sorry I was out," Jordan told the arena crowd. "I'm happy I'm back."

As the game ended, Jordan grabbed the ball and fell face down on the court, sharing a private moment with his father in spirit as jubilation began around him.

Jordan, who won his eighth NBA scoring crown, matched Willis Reed of the 1970 New York Knicks as the only men to be named the

regular season and playoff most valuable player.

Scottie Pippen added 17 points for the Bulls, who also had 12 from Luc Longley and 10 each by Toni Kukoc and Ron Harper. Dennis Rodman pulled down 19 rebounds, including 11 offensive rebounds to match a finals record.

Detlef Schrempf led Seattle with 23 points while Gary Payton contributed 19 points and Shawn Kemp added 18.

The Supersonics, playing in their first NBA final since winning their only title in 1979, settled for being the winningest club to ever lose a final. They were second to the Bulls with 64 regular-season victories.

Hill wins Canadian Grand Prix

MONTREAL (AFP) — Damon Hill, back in command of the drivers' championship after winning the Canadian Grand Prix, tempered his confidence for the remainder of 1996 with caution after the important victory.

"I'm very pleased to have won here in Canada, and to be back on track," the Englishman said after opening a 21-point championship lead. "I'm looking forward to the second half of the championship."

"But it will be very tough. I expect a lot of challenges."

One of those challenges is still likely to come from two-time world champion Michael Schumacher, despite Ferrari's debacle in Montreal.

Hill and his teammate Jacques Villeneuve totally dominated the Canadian race, as they had in Australia and Argentina. The Williams-Renaults are unchallenged on fast tracks in dry weather.

The pair had only each other to beat, and Hill had the upper hand in the two critical moments of the race.

He held off fierce attacks by Villeneuve into the first two corners, and then built up sufficient lead to get out of the pits ahead of the young Canadian on his second pit stop — admitting it would have been tough to pass him otherwise.

The domination of the Williams was particularly depressing to Schumacher, who had gone into the race with unusual optimism about his chances of retaining his title. A spate of problems left him saying

again that Hill was the favourite this year.

Hill and team owner Frank Williams pointed out that there are still eight races to go, even if, on form, Hill should be able to increase his lead if the weather favours him in the upcoming races in France, Britain and Germany.

"I don't think Michael will be packing up and going home," Hill said. "I think Ferrari's goal is to be a factor in the second half of the season. They seem to be getting better all the time."

Schumacher did say there were "important developments in progress" at Ferrari and urged his team not to be discouraged.

But there was still a noticeable gap to bridge to the Williams in both qualifying and racing, except in wet conditions where Schumacher can shine — as in Spain.

The rest of the field face an even bigger gap on the basis of the Canadian race. Benetton-Renault scored third with Jean Alesi, and Gerhard Berger ran close behind him in fourth for half the race before crashing, as he had in practice.

At no time, however, could they mount any realistic challenge to the Williams.

Nor was there a noticeable

improvement from the McLaren-Mercedes.

Though reliability brought both cars home in the points in a race of high attrition, they were both effectively a lap down, and again suffered engine problems.

Jordan found an extra turn of speed on Sunday by running even less wing than in qualifying, but the acknowledged power of their Peugeot engines was still insufficient to bring them into leadership contention. Martin Brundle could have expected better than sixth place, however, if Pedro Lamy had not clipped off the Jordan's front wing.

Becke

Becke, who won the 1992 title, said he was looking forward to the second half of the season. He held off fierce attacks by Villeneuve into the first two corners, and then built up sufficient lead to get out of the pits ahead of the young Canadian on his second pit stop — admitting it would have been tough to pass him otherwise.

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INSTRUMENTS FOR PROFESSIONALS

Experts, activists call for strong commitment to National Charter

By Francesca Ciriaci
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A two-day seminar on "The National Charter and democratic transformation in Jordan" closed yesterday with calls for reactivating the 1990 national document and establishing a special committee to ensure its implementation.

Intellectuals, leaders of political parties, former ministers and some among the most prominent personalities in Jordan's modern history expressed disappointment over the democratic achievements of the Kingdom and accused the past governments of having violated the National Charter.

"The charter was the result of a collective reconciliation effort exerted by all political and social forces and groups in Jordan, and, as such, must be reactivated and implemented in all its parts," former Prime Minister Ahmad Obeidat declared.

Dr. Obeidat, who chaired the 60-member specially-appointed Royal Commission in charge of drafting the National Charter, emphasised the role of this document in boosting Jordan's democratisation process and said that the main objective of the seminar was "to find and propose means to reactivate the charter in the country's political life."

The charter, which was

promulgated after over three decades of ban on political parties and followed the 1989 general elections, aimed at expediting the resumption of full parliamentary life and set the general guidelines and the institutional basis for the exercise of political pluralism.

The document, consisting of a historical introduction and eight sections, also laid the basis for comprehensive reforms in the national security, economic, cultural, educational and information sectors.

Many of the participants pointed out that, while the charter calls for and set up the guidelines for many laws and regulations necessary to the Kingdom's democratic advancement, only two laws derived from it.

Even if all political forces considered it as a common platform and a national source of reference, "the governments ignored it, and only the law on political parties and the Press and Publications Law were promulgated according to the letter and the spirit of the charter," senator and former minister Ibrahim Izzeddine asserted.

Senator and former minister Mohammad Tarawneh stressed that the implementation of some parts of the charter, especially the one concerning economic reforms, is "now more necessary than ever."

"The charter was not

ignored by the past governments, but deliberately violated," former director of the Royal Cultural Centre and member of the Royal Commission for the National Charter Iyad Qattan stated.

He added that, paradoxically, the number of ministers in the past governments who were also former members of the Royal Commission was exceeded only by the number of violations of the Charter that their governments perpetrated.

Out of the 53 members still alive of the 60-member Royal Commission which wrote the charter, 17 were participating in the seminar, organised by Al Urdun Al Jadid Research Centre and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation in cooperation with the Jordanian Society for the Enhancement of Democracy and Freedom.

Sunday's opening session, with the opening remarks delivered by Al Urdun Al Jadid Director Hani Hourani, Konrad Adenauer Foundation representative in Jordan Olaf Kongden and President of the National Society for the Enhancement of Democracy and Freedom Taher Masri, was followed by three sessions, focusing on the impact of the National Charter on Jordanian political life and its Arab and Islamic relations as envisaged in the Charter.

"No matter how named, a wide coalition under the slogan 'implement the National Charter' is necessary," said Issa Madanat, leader of the Progressive Democratic Unionist Party.

Speaking at the round table which closed the seminar, under the chairmanship of Dr. Obeidat, Mr. Masri, also a former prime minister and speaker of the Lower House, defended the charter against the attacks of those who define it obsolete and out of date.

To those who think that the charter should be buried, or at least amended because of its references to the "Zionist threat," Mr. Masri answered that "the Arab-Israeli conflict is not over, and that became even more apparent after the Likud's victory and the election of Benjamin Netanyahu as prime minister in Israel."

Lawyer and women activist Asma Khader said "the charter sets a minimum of democratic guarantees which can be exceeded, but must not be given up."

Pointing to the provisions envisaged by the charter and not yet fully implemented, especially with regard to women development and equality, Ms. Khader called for the creation of a "wide coalition of social and political forces, from which government officials are excluded, to sustain the implementation of the Charter."

"No matter how named, a wide coalition under the slogan 'implement the National Charter' is necessary," said Issa Madanat, leader of the Progressive Democratic Unionist Party.

Peres opens new Knesset with appeal to pursue peace process

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AFP) — Outgoing Prime Minister Shimon Peres Monday called on Israeli deputies to pursue the peace process in an address to the inaugural session of the country's newly elected parliament.

"I want to believe that the peace process which we have started will continue and yield results," said Mr. Peres, who at 72 opened the Knesset session in his capacity as the legislature's oldest member. "I am convinced that above and beyond differences of opinion, concern for the peace, security and welfare of the state of Israel unites all of us," he said.

"Zionism is on the verge of its greatest victory, the victory of peace. This is possible, this is within reach and if we will (realise) it, it is no dream," he declared before the 120 new members of the parliament cited their oath of office and the Knesset was adjourned until Tuesday.

Prime Minister-elect Benjamin Netanyahu had hoped to present his right-wing coalition government at Monday's Knesset session. But his spokesman said the government would not be put forward until Tuesday, although Mr. Netanyahu had earlier in the day reached coalition agreements with enough parties to ensure his administration a 66-seat Knesset majority.

Mr. Peres acknowledged that the outgoing legisla-



Outgoing Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres (right) with successor Benjamin Netanyahu at Monday's opening of the new Knesset (Reuters photo)

ture, which launched the Palestinian self-rule process, was "among the most stormy and decisive in the history of the state."

"It is unavoidable that the 14th Knesset will also be called upon to make fateful and historic decisions," he said.

Referring to the issue of Israel's security which was used successfully by Mr. Netanyahu to defeat him in the May 29 elections, Mr. Peres acknowledged that "our security problems are serious." "But we must not become alienated from the voices which break forth here and there from among the Arab peoples, which take a sober and realistic view of Israeli-Arab relations and which demand the recognition of Israel's existence."

"We must encourage any possible contact with those

among the Arabs who truly aspire to peace," he said.

Before concluding his speech, Mr. Peres recalled the November assassination of his predecessor Yitzhak Rabin by a Jewish radical, Yigal Amir, "one who, in his baseness, dared to deny the democratic process."

"Were it not for this murder, Yitzhak Rabin would have been here as the oldest Knesset member and would have conducted the opening session."

President Ezer Weizman, in opening the session, appealed for national unity following the divisive election campaign. "I call on all the deputies to do everything in their power to overcome their differences and search for the broadest possible common denominator," he said.

COLUMN 8

Jagger may send son to elite British school

LONDON (R) — Rolling Stone Mick Jagger, the wild man of British rock music in the 1960s, is considering sending his son to Eton, one of Britain's most exclusive private schools. The Daily Telegraph said Monday that Jagger and his American model wife Jerry Hall visited the school last week. Its pupils include future king Prince William, son of heir to the throne Prince Charles and his estranged wife Princess Diana. Jagger's son James is 11 years old and has been educated by private tutors on the Caribbean island of Mustique, where the couple have a home. If accepted, he could start at Eton in September 1997. Eton declined to comment on the possibility of Jagger's son gaining a place at the school. But one teacher was quoted by the telegraph as saying: "One of the things which makes the school so special is that it contains boys from all sorts of social and ethnic backgrounds."

'Scientist's vaccine' turns out to be cocaine

BOGOTA, Colombia (R) — Police found a small amount of cocaine in what was labeled as vaccine being shipped to Europe for a well-known Colombian scientist, a local radio network reported Sunday. Caracol said police discovered about 18 ounces (520 grammes) of cocaine hidden in 32 vials in a box being sent by courier on a flight to Frankfurt, Germany, from the international airport. The network said the box was supposedly a donation by the Colombian Red Cross to German health authorities on behalf of Manuel Elkin Patarroyo, known for his groundbreaking vaccine against malaria. It said they suspected drug traffickers used Dr. Patarroyo's name to evade detection by customs and did not believe he had anything to do with the shipment. Police opened the box before it was put on the flight because they found it suspicious, the network said. Airport police were not immediately available for comment. Dr. Patarroyo could not be reached for comment.

Chinese imperial seal found after theft

BEIJING (AFP) — A large seal that belonged to a Chinese empress of the sixth century has been recovered three years after it was stolen by grave robbers, a report said Monday. The one-kilogramme (2.2-pound) seal, which belonged to Empress Wudi of the Northern Zhou Dynasty and dates back 1,400 years, was taken by grave robbers in September 1993. The relic is said to be the earliest seal belonging to a Chinese empress ever discovered. The Xinhua News Agency said. The seal, inscribed with the empress's name, was buried with her and Emperor Wudi in a tomb in Xianyang city near the capital of Shaanxi province, Xian. The seal was recovered after a suspect arrested in connection with the original robbery identified the man who had been hiding the relic for the past three years. Last week, the man turned himself in to police and handed over the seal. Xinhua said. It was unclear if other relics stolen during the robbery — including the emperor's seal — had also been recovered. Such relics are considered crucial to studies of the Southern and Northern dynasties (420-581) — an era when China was divided as a result of wars between northern tribes and residents in the central plains.

Arafat loyalist, 5 others killed in blast near 'Ain Al Hilweh camp

SIDON (Agencies) — A commander in Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction was among six Palestinians killed Monday when an arms cache exploded during a blaze at his home in Lebanon's largest Palestinian refugee camp, Palestinian sources said.

The fire in the basement of Nabil Khattab's two-storey house in the 'Ain Al Hilweh camp ignited gas cylinders as well as ammunition and explosives stored there causing a series of blasts, which ripped through the house also injuring at least 16 people, they added.

Mr. Khattab's wife raised the fire alarm at 8:00 a.m. (0500 GMT), and minutes later several massive explosions rocked the area claiming casualties among groups of young people running towards the blazing house with buckets of water.

A woman and child were among those killed in the blast in the northern area of the camp which houses 70,000 refugees in a suburb of the southern Lebanese city of Sidon, Palestinian sources said.

They added that the dis-

figured body of explosives expert Khattab had been found, but his wife had only been very slightly hurt.

Palestinian sources said that Mr. Khattab had kept explosives on the first floor of his house and they could have ignited accidentally. They added there had not been any tensions lately between the various Palestinian factions in the camp.

Those loyal to Mr. Arafat are in the minority in the camp.

The camp is led by Munir Magdah, who broke away from Fateh and is opposed to the autonomy accords struck with Israel. His men have claimed several anti-Israeli operations in southern Lebanon.

The house was flattened and four neighbouring houses were damaged. Windows were blown out in buildings within a radius of 500 metres and the blasts could be heard in the centre of Sidon.

As rescue teams were desperately trying to dig out any survivors from under the rubble, Fateh fighters arrived to retrieve cases of undamaged ammunition and explosives, he added.

All roads leading to the Barak district were closed to traffic and the area was sealed off, he said.

Under the terms of a deal reached with the Lebanese authorities in 1991, the Palestinians are allowed to keep light arms in the camps where security is run by committees made up of the different Palestinian factions.

At the end of the Lebanese civil war all the conflicting militias, with the exception of the Iranian-backed Hizbollah, were disarmed although the Palestinians, considered to be the biggest losers among the combatants, obtained a concession to hold on to their small arms.

They were also allowed to retain control of the 12 refugee camps in southern Lebanon where the Lebanese police and army never risk going.

Since the signing of the Oslo autonomy accords between the Palestinians and Israel in 1993, the camps have been plagued by conflict between supporters and opponents of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat.



Palestinian guerrillas loyal to PLO leader Yasser Arafat's Fateh group inspect the damage of a building caused after an explosion on Monday just outside 'Ain Al Hilweh refugee camp, the largest Palestinian camp in Lebanon, near the southern port city of Sidon (Reuters photo)

Palestinian detained in killing of Israeli policeman

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM

(AP) — Israeli troops on Monday arrested a Palestinian suspect in the killing of an Israeli policeman in a West Bank toy store and imposed a curfew on the Arab village where the shooting occurred.

A gunman opened fire Sunday, fatally wounding Meir Alouche, 40, as he was shopping with his wife and year-old son in a toy store in the village of Bidya near the Jewish settlement of Ariel.

Alouche was to be buried Monday. His wife Nitza was recovering from a gunshot wound to the back and chest and the child, Chai, was unharmed, Israel Radio reported.

Israeli security sources confirmed Israel Radio reports that said one suspect was detained. The sources said they were operating on the assumption that the suspect acted on his own initiative because the policeman had stopped at the store on a whim.

They declined to give further details, and the army spokesman refused comment. The attack, the second

in eight days, follows the victory of hardline candidate Benjamin Netanyahu in the May 29 elections for prime minister.

No group has claimed responsibility for either attack, although security officials said they suspect both were carried out by Palestinian militants.

The army put the area under full curfew Sunday and began searching the village for suspects. Roadblocks were set up at junctions around Arab villages in the area and cars were being checked, the Palestinian daily Al Ayyam reported. The village of Bidya is in an area of the West Bank where Israel retains final say on security issues. Israeli troops kept Palestinian police in the area from entering the village to investigate the attack.

Israel's West Bank commander, Maj. Gen. Uzi Dayan said Sunday that the curfew, which kept stores in Bidya closed and residents at home, was to show that "after an incident of this sort business will not go on as usual."

Demonstrators demand release of activist Sarraj

AL BIREH (Agencies) — A

small group of demonstrators on Monday demanded the immediate release of a leading human rights activist held in a Palestinian jail.

A Palestinian security agent ordered the demonstrators outside the Al Bireh municipality to disperse, claiming they did not have the required permission to hold a protest. He said the orders came from Brigadier General Ziyad Orief, the area's police chief.

The group, made up of about 25 representatives of Palestinian non-governmental organisations, ignored the order and continued their one-hour sit-in to protest the arrest of Eyad Sarraj, a leading critic of Yasser Arafat who was detained 11 days ago.

"The worst thing that can happen to us as a people is to be afraid," said Hanan Ashrawi, a human rights watchdog who was appointed to Mr. Arafat's cabinet on Friday. "We need to look into all the steps that were taken against Dr. Sarraj," she added.

On Thursday, a magistrate's court in Gaza City ordered Dr. Sarraj, 53, released on bail on drug possession charges. But on the same day, the state security court ordered him held for 15 days on charges he assaulted a police officer.

His lawyers argue that assaulting a police officer comes under criminal law, not state security. On Sunday, the Palestinian high court gave the attorney-general's office five days to justify Dr. Sarraj's detention.

Dr. Sarraj, a 53-year-old psychologist who also heads the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights, has denied attacking a policeman and claims police planted 95 grammes of hashish in his office.

His lawyer, Raji Sourani, said both the assault and the drug charges apparently were designed to silence his client, who has criticised Mr. Arafat's rule as corrupt and autocratic.

The Cairo-based Union of Arab Lawyers on Monday appealed to Mr. Arafat to free Dr. Sarraj.

Indicted Bosnian Serb freed as victim of mistaken identity

THE HAGUE (Agencies) — The international war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia on Monday freed an indicted Bosnian Serb and dropped all charges against him, saying he was a victim of mistaken identity.

The man, Goran Lajic, was arrested on March 18 in southern Germany and had been held in a United Nations prison at Scheveningen near here since May 13.

All charges were immediately dropped against him, but the indictment of another Bosnian Serb with the same name stands, the tribunal said.

Mr. Lajic, 28, was arrested at Amberg, near Nuremberg, after German police received notification of his name and date of birth from tribunal, but he told the tribunal as he was released: "I was not worried because I knew I was innocent."

He recalled that he told German police "I never set foot in Keraterm," the prisoner-of-war camp in northwest Bosnia where he was alleged to have committed war crimes.

Mr. Lajic said he had known for several months that another man with the same name was wanted as a suspected war criminal.

He reminded the presiding French judge, Claude Jorda, that he had deserted from the Bosnian Serb army in 1994 because he did not wish to wage war on people with whom he had no quarrel.

The U.S. Supreme Court has allowed women raped and tortured in the former Yugoslavia to sue Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in the United States for crimes against humanity.

The court, without comment, turned down on Monday Mr. Karadzic's argu-

ment that he cannot be sued here because he is a private citizen, not a government official, and because none of the alleged offenses occurred in the United States.

The two class-action lawsuits against Mr. Karadzic were filed by human rights groups in 1991 on behalf of thousands of Bosnian Muslim and Croatian women. He is accused of ordering a campaign of murder, rape and other forms of torture to destroy non-Serbian people.

The case is based on a 200-year-old United States law allowing foreign citizens to sue foreign officials and citizens for violating the law of nations. Mr. Karadzic, the Serbs' political leader, also has been indicted on charges of genocide and war crimes by the United Nations tribunal based in The Hague. He has not been arrested on those charges, however.